

هذا هو الجهاد



ARAB TIMES

IF YOUR LAST SET OF PICTURES WERE AS COLORFUL AS THIS ADVERTISEMENT, YOU NEED **Konica** FILM

NO. 7778 SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 1990/RAJAB 1, 1410 AH 22 PAGES 150 FILLS



A member of India's Bharatiya Janata Party struggles with a plainclothes policeman during a demonstration outside the Pakistan high commission in New Delhi. (Reuters wirephoto)

Benazir has lost support: Jatoi

'Jihad!'

Call to hold UN session on Kashmir

KARACHI, Jan. 27, (Reuters): Opposition leader Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi told a huge rally in Karachi yesterday that the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto had lost the people's support.

Jatoi, leader of the Combined Opposition Parties (COP), accused the government of promoting corruption, nepotism, inflation and lawlessness, adding: "It has lost the people's support."

As the crowd, estimated at several hundred thousand, chanted "reject the government," he declared: "We don't recognise the PPP government."

The rally was called by opposition leaders as a show of strength in answer to Benazir's claim of overwhelming popular support.

"The huge participation reflects hatred against corrupt and inefficient government," said Benazir foe Nawaz Sharif, president of the Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA) and chief minister of the most populous province of Punjab.

"It confirms no confidence in Bhutto," he told the cheering crowd.

Ahaf Hussain, leader of the Mohajir National Movement (MQM), said his people—refugees who migrated from India at the time of partition in 1947—did not want a separate state.

"We want peace and friendship with all communities," he said. "We are not against Sindhis, Punjabis, Baluchis and Pashtuns. We want to forget and forgive the past acrimony."

About 25 people were killed in the most recent outbreak of ethnic violence between Mohajirs and native Sindhis.

MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan, Jan. 27, (Agencies): The leader of Pakistan-held Kashmir said he would launch a "jihad," or Islamic holy war, if the United Nations failed to hold a special session on the disputed territory.

Sikander Hyat Khan, prime minister of the Pakistani-controlled region, gave the United Nations until Feb. 17 to schedule a special session on a 1948 resolution that calls for Kashmiris to vote on whether they preferred independence or union with either India or Pakistan.

"If the United Nations is not ready to play its role... I will tell them to go and fight," Khan said. He said his deadline coincides with a meeting he has called of Pakistan's political and religious parties in Islamabad.

In New York, a spokesman for UN Secretary-General Javier Peres de Cuellar said the UN chief is closely following developments in Kashmir but would have no comment on the violence.



What a relief! Twenty-year-old Dawn Griffiths is reunited with her baby Alexandra at St. Thomas Hospital, London, more than two weeks after she was snatched by a bogus health visitor from the hospital. Alexandra was found by police in an Oxfordshire house. (Reuters wirephoto). See story on Page 5

Meanwhile, Mansoor Suhail, press officer for the Pakistan mission to the United Nations, said yesterday that Pakistan had not asked the Security Council to convene a special session on the situation in Kashmir.

Khan issued his threat at a rally by about 3,000 Pakistanis to show solidarity with Muslims in the Indian-held territory. A turbulent effigy of Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh jerked violently to the beat of chanting Pakistani Muslims screaming, "Indian dogs go back."

Tariq Mahmood Butt, head of the student wing of the militant Jama-e-Kashmir Liberation Front, said Muslims would swarm into Indian-controlled territory on Feb. 11 unless the United Nations promised action.

He said the Front operates independently of Khan and would refuse to wait until Feb. 17.

Feb. 11 is the fifth anniversary of the hanging death of Maqbool Butt, a secessionist leader.

In Srinagar, India, troops arrested suspected Muslim militants in searches for "die-hard terrorists" as the government continued a week-old crackdown on a separatist movement in Kashmir state, police said.

Sporadic gunfire crackled in the city late last night, but there was no official report on how the fighting ended.

At least 72 people, mostly protesters defying a curfew, have been killed since Jan. 20 in Srinagar and surrounding towns.

"The situation is well under control," said Jitendra Narain Saxena, top police official in Jammu-Kashmir state, by telephone. "We have enforced very strict curfew because we have information that die-hard terrorists have infiltrated into Srinagar."

Saxena said an unspecified number of arrests had been made in house-to-house searches last night and early today. He refused to elaborate.

Hint at snap polls

Cory open on subject

MANILA, Jan. 27, (Reuters): President Corason Aquino said today she was open to an early presidential election but a final decision would hinge on a national referendum.

"According to our constitution, three-fourths of the members of Congress will have to vote on this so that it can be presented to the people in a plebiscite," Aquino told reporters.

She was commenting on a resolution filed by four members of the Philippine Senate to bring forward the date of presidential polling, not due until May 1992.

The four senators from Aquino's coalition want the election advanced to November next year to give her a fresh mandate to fend off attacks by right-wing and leftist rebels.

Opposition politicians have demanded a quick poll, saying Aquino had lost her mandate to govern. She survived the sixth and most serious army coup against her last month.

A report prepared by Brigadier General Hermogenes Peralta, leading the military investigation into the coup attempt, said 1,967 officers and men had been jailed for their roles in the revolt.

About 195 people, including most of the rebel leaders headed by cashiered army Colonel Gregorio Honasan, were still at large, the report said. The trial of 21 officers would begin in the next few days.

Azeris offer peace

Radical leaders netted in sweep: Baku toll 125

MOSCOW, Jan. 27, (Agencies): Azerbaijan's Nationalist Popular Front said today it had offered the Kremlin peace talks, exactly a week after Soviet troops and tanks stormed into the southern republic's capital Baku.

The Front's first normal offer of negotiations held out a prospect of law and order in the city in exchange for a Soviet troop withdrawal and a lifting of the state of emergency.

It came after Defence Minister Dmitri Yazov said the Kremlin wanted to crush the Front and Soviet troops piled the pressure on Azerbaijani rebels by arresting scores of people in Baku.

The offer also followed an announcement by the military commander in Baku that his forces had foiled an attempt by Popular Front "guerrillas" to seize important administrative buildings and prisons in the city.

But the tone of the Front's declaration, passed at a meeting of its governing board, did not reflect the pressure from authorities and made clear its leaders still claimed to enjoy the support of most Azerbaijanis.

"The board of the Popular Front has worked out a number of proposals in order to provide the fastest stabilisation of situation in Azerbaijan," the statement said, according to Yusif Samad-Ogly, a member of the board.

The Front "is ready to start talks at a corresponding level with those officials who did not compromise themselves," the statement said, without elaborating.

The death toll in eight days of fighting in the Azerbaijani capital of Baku rose to 125, including 27 Red Army soldiers, as nationalists mounted sporadic attacks on Soviet troops and security sweeps netted Azerbaijani leaders, Tass said today.

The violence persisted despite an agreement reached today between Armenian and Azerbaijani nationalist groups in and around the ethnically Azerbaijani enclave of Nakhichevan to withdraw their armed units from the border area where there have been frequent clashes.

Tass said in talks brokered by the army in the West Armenian city of Yerevan, the irregular fighters from both sides said they would pull their men away from the border area by tomorrow morning and Soviet troops would patrol it.

Both sides also agreed to stop blocking vital railroads across their territories and search for missing civilians.

The news agency said tension in Baku eased and life was returning to normal but transport was still gridlocked today by Azeri looters and Azeri attacks on soldiers continued.

In one incident yesterday, Soviet troops in front of the downtown headquarters of the regional Communist Party came under fire from what the agency called "terrorists" and one soldier was wounded.

Tass reported security teams were trawling the region for nationalist leaders who sought to "provoke violations of the law" and said the Soviet forces were crushing the Azerbaijani Popular Front. The daily newspaper Trud reported nearly 150 people were arrested overnight in Baku.

Roundups of both Armenian and Azerbaijani militants were reported by Tass but the 100-plus fresh arrests today were centred on the Front's Azerbaijani activists in Lenkoran and Nefchala—towns close to the border with Muslim Iran.

About 500 miles (800 km) of border fencing and many guard posts along it were destroyed by Azeris last week as they protested division from Azeris living on the Iranian side who speak the same Turkish dialect.

Tass echoed army claims today that the troops ended most of the violence and that the Front was smashed.



Parts of crashed Avianca jet rest on a lawn in front of a home in Cove Neck, New York. (Reuters wirephoto)

Colombia jet crash probe

Crew warned of oil shortage

COVE NECK, New York, Jan. 27, (Agencies): A Colombian jetliner's crew warned controllers it was running out of fuel before the Boeing 707 crashed on its second approach to Kennedy International Airport, killing 72 people, investigators said.

Avianca Airlines Flight 52 from Bogota, carrying 152 passengers and a crew of nine, had been delayed in the air and appeared to have barely enough fuel to land before it smashed into a hillside in this wealthy New York City suburb Thursday night, officials said.

The jet seems to have lost power in three of its four engines before it went down. The plane's crew, however, never declared an emergency or requested an emergency landing priority, said Lee Dickinson, a spokesman for the US National Transportation Safety Board.

Eighty-nine people survived the crash and 72 died, including all but one of the crew members, the chief steward, Dickinson said.

Hospital officials said at least 25 of the injured were in serious or critical condition, and more than two dozen children were among the injured.

Some of the children were being adopted by American parents and were making their first trips to their new homes.

After aborting their first landing attempt because of fog and rain, the cockpit crew told controllers repeatedly that "they were running out of fuel or that they were low on fuel," Dickinson said.

Investigators plying through the wreckage found gauges indicating the jet had 10,000 pounds (4,500 kilograms) of fuel left, about 6 per cent of its capacity, Dickinson said. The investigators had not checked the actual tanks, he said.

In Seattle, Boeing Commercial Airplanes spokesman Jack Gamble said 10,000 pounds equals about 1,500 gallons (5,700 litres), which "is enough to land an airplane when it's three to five minutes out" from the field.

Three to five minutes flight time equals about 17 miles (27 kms) in a landing configuration, Gamble said. The Avianca jetliner crashed about 15 miles (24 kms) northeast of the airport. Gamble said 1,500 gallons (5,700 litres) would be roughly the amount needed to get to the airport, "but not much more."

Surgeons operating on a victim of the crash discovered he was carrying some extra baggage on his flight from Colombia: several golf-ball size packets filled with a white powder believed to be cocaine.

Dr Robert Ward, the chief of special surgery at North Shore University Hospital, said doctors working to stop the injured man's internal bleeding discovered what he estimated as more than a pound of the drug in condoms inside his intestines.

Second storm heading for UK

LONDON, Jan. 27, (Agencies): A second major storm is heading for Britain, with the London Weather Centre warning today of severe gales and storm-force winds in some areas of the country this Monday.

A spokesman said it was too early to say which parts of the UK would be the worst affected.

Hundreds of thousands of people are still without power after Thursday's devastating storm which killed 93 people in the UK and Northern Europe.

The British Ministry of Defence today denied reports that it had failed to protect the public from the gales.

The weather centre said forecasts had been warning of high winds since last Sunday, saying that structural damage could be expected.

But a popular British newspaper, "Today," claimed this morning that the British government had ignored storm warnings and refused to broadcast an alert before the winds struck.

Meanwhile, the massive clean-up operation was still underway today as the government promised substantial cash aid to deal with the nationwide damage.

At least three million trees were blown down and many people were made homeless. A number of roads are still blocked by fallen trees. London was virtually cut off from the rest of the country for many hours by fallen trees and scaffolding which closed roads and railways.

In a related development, claims of at least £2 billion are expected to result from the storms that lashed the UK and northern Europe.

The worldwide insurers Lloyd's of London said damage is set to exceed the £1.8 billion claims that had resulted from the October 1987 windstorms that then ranked as the world's worst-ever insurance catastrophe.

US private weather forecaster ACCU-weather said another big storm was brewing in the western Atlantic and high winds could hit Britain and northwest Europe.

In the United States the upper Midwest was digging out from a fierce storm with high winds that dumped up to 15 inches (38 cms) of snow, blacked out at least 138,000 homes and business, peeled off roofs and closed three major airports.



Broken into two The Paraguayan freighter 'Boquaron' appears almost broken in two at Cape Quinras after it crashed due to bad weather at the Bay of Biscay in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Spain. The ship, which transports wood for a Spanish company, is reportedly leaking fuel, though her crew was evacuated unharmed. (Reuters wirephoto)

ALUMINUM
BLACK AND WHITE
COATING
NIOB
5-4742458

If bimbette is a young bimbo, what is an ageing bimbette

LONDON, Jan 27, (AP): With the editor of one sober-sided newspaper suing the former editor of another, the nation's famously lurid tabloids are having a field day.

The case raises etiquette questions such as whether two editors should pursue the same woman and the semantic riddle: If a bimbette is a younger bimbo, then what is an "ageing bimbette?"

The libel suit pits Andrew Neil, editor of the Sunday Times, against Peregrine Worsthorne, former editor of the Sunday Telegraph.

Neil alleges that Worsthorne and the Sunday Telegraph falsely implied that he knew that Pamela Bordes, his girlfriend for four months in 1988, was a prostitute.

Miss Bordes, a former Miss India, was a low-paid researcher in the House of Commons a year ago when a tabloid broke the story of her other life.

That created a hot market for photos of Miss Bordes, including one of her on the dance floor with Neil and another of her holding hands with Neil's Sunday competitor, Donald Treford, editor of the Observer.

In an editorial titled "Playboys as editors" in the March 19 Sunday Telegraph, Worsthorne thundered that "anybody who finds the company of bimbos (women of loose morals) ... indispensable to their professional fulfillment might do well to conclude that editorial chairs were not designed for them."

Neil, a stocky, 40-year-old bachelor, alleges that the editorial, a cartoon and a subsequent article by another writer falsely implied that he knew that his girlfriend was a prostitute.

The principals in the case are all well-acquainted. Rupert Murdoch owns the Sunday Times as well as the News of the World, which broke the Bordes story. After Worsthorne's editorial, the Sunday Times had to hire him, Neil acknowledged, and it has hired the author of the other Sunday Telegraph article cited in the suit.

The defendants say Worsthorne's editorial was fair comment and not, as opposing counsel suggested, "an overwritten piece of humbug."

Newspapers are not in the business of being particularly tolerant or understanding about public figures when they get into a scandal," testified Worsthorne, a patrician figure with flowing silver hair.

Neil met Miss Bordes at a club called Tramp, which the 66-year-old Worsthorne regards as no fit milieu for the editor of the Sunday Times.

It is not a place where one is apt to meet the Archbishop of Canterbury, the prime minister "or even an archdeacon," Worsthorne said, but a place where most men go "for one reason — to pick up girls." At least, he said on cross-examination, that's why he used to go to nightclubs.

Editors, Worsthorne said, once were "hommes sérieux," serious men who frequented "learned seminars, European chancelleries, establishment dinners."

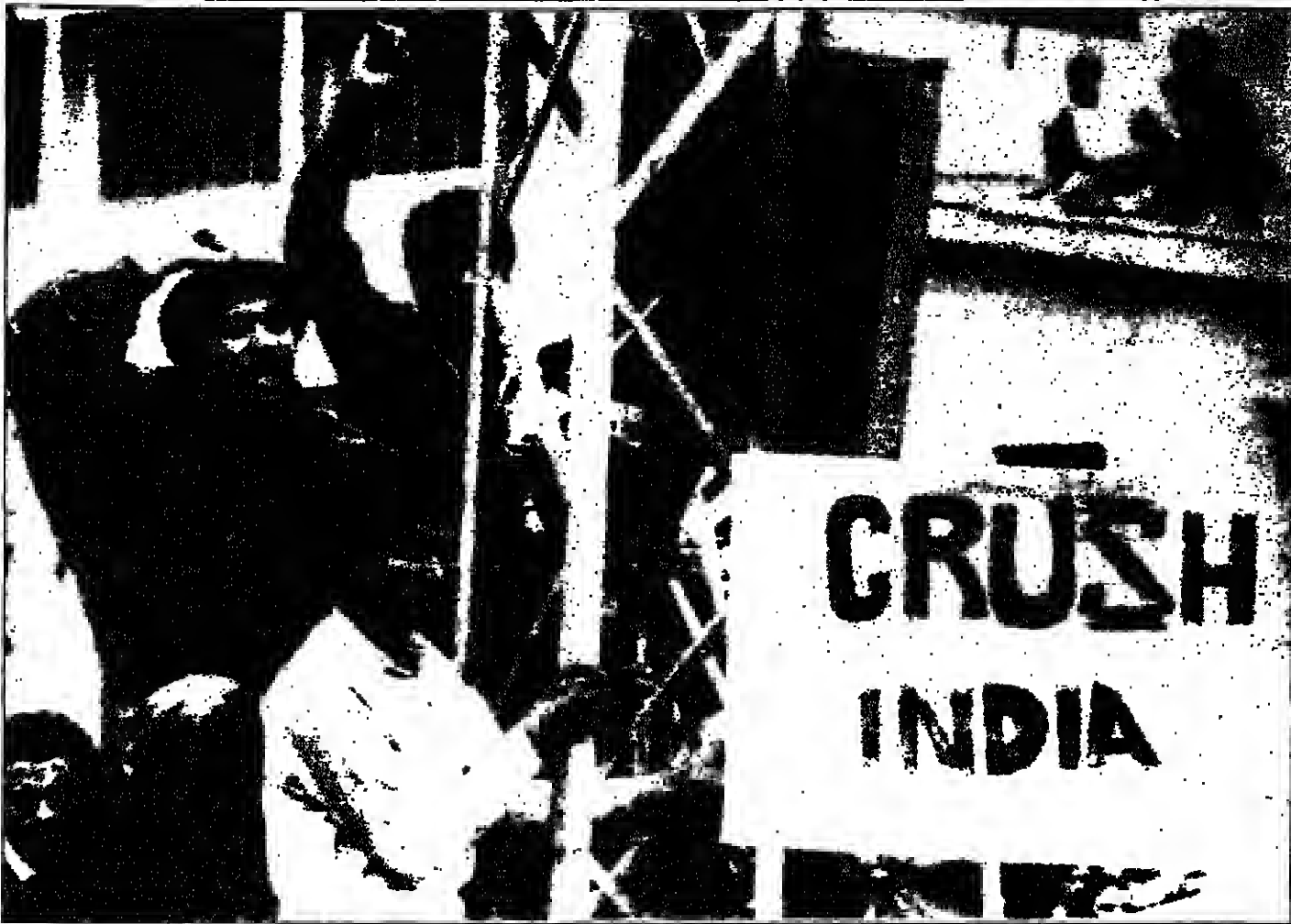
Neil said he had become aware that the 52-year-old Treford also was interested in Miss Bordes, but Neil warned Treford away "because I thought no newspaper could resist a story of two editors and the same woman."

After a headline in the Sun, Murdoch's big-selling daily, called Treford "Dirty Don," Treford publicly wondered why there was no mention of "Randy Andy" Neil.

The Sun made amends with Thursday's screamer headline:

"Dirty Don tried to pull my Pam says Randy Andy."

Earlier in the week, Mr Justice Michael Davis was puzzled by the terminology in the gossip columns. "Mr Neil," the judge interjected, "we heard yesterday the word bimbo. I presume a bimbette is a young bimbo."



Crying for blood
Protesters in Muzaffarabad, the capital of Azad Kashmir chant slogans during a rally against the killing of Muslim militants in Indian-controlled Kashmir. (Reuter wirephoto)

Benazir may opt for midterm elections

Opposition pressure on Pak government mounts

By Z.A. Rajput
Arab Times staff

ISLAMABAD, Jan 27: Midterm elections are very much likely to salvage a year-old democracy in Pakistan which begins to show signs of fatigue that stems from over-politicizing, tussle between the centre and provinces capped by frequent eruption of ethnic violence.

These views have been expressed by the political circles belonging to ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Combined Opposition (COP).

Benazir, who survived a no-confidence motion in the National Assembly last November, is worried about the possibility of another move by the COP in the next coming session as indicated by her political foes.

Benazir has so far also failed to get rid of the much-publicised Eighth Amendment to the constitution, which remains a permanent threat to her fragile government in the centre. The Eighth Amendment is a legacy of deceased military ruler, president Gen. Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq who introduced it to grab dictatorial powers and to prolong his iron-fist rule.

Using the fearsome amendment to his advantage Zia dismissed the elected government of Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo, who came into power on the basis of non-party polls held under Zia regime. Zia also dissolved the national and provincial assemblies accusing them of corruption and incompetence.

Benazir's fears are vindicated by the statements of President Ishaq who hinted at the possibility of midterm elections. Besides the provincial governments of Punjab and Baluchistan have been constantly following headline policies hostile to the federal government.

With the Karachi-based Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) joining the COP, Benazir government is increasingly fearful of opposition tactics in the National Assembly where MQM has 17 seats that can always swing the power balance against the PPP in the event of defections from the ruling party.

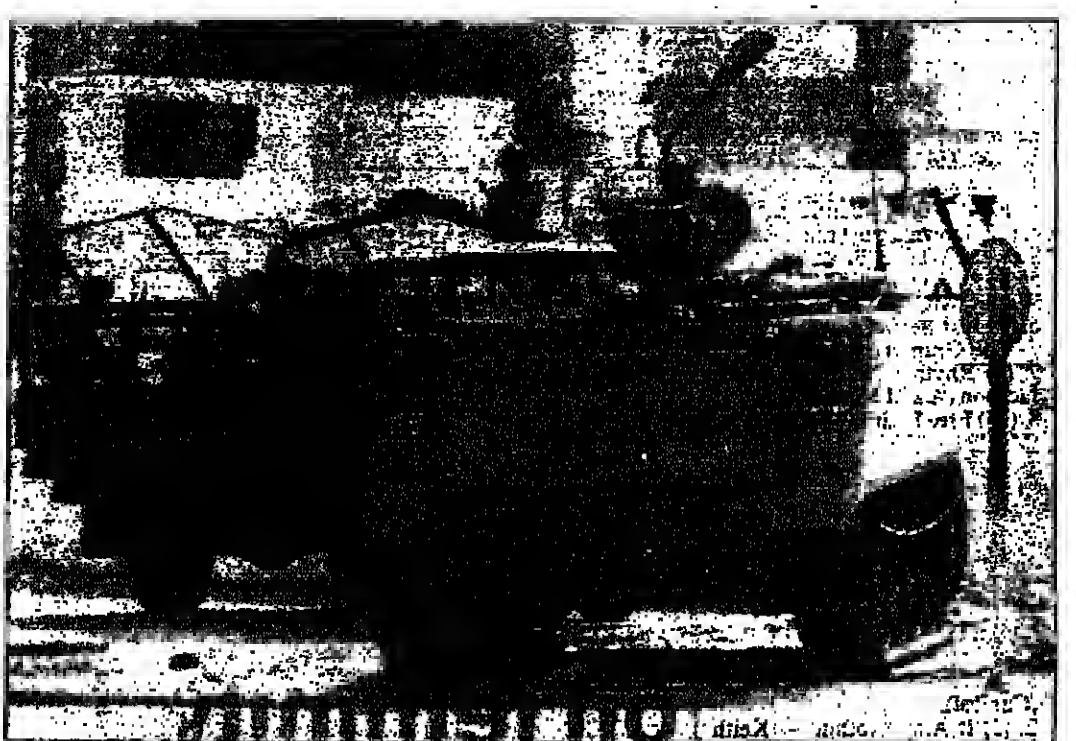
For the past two weeks opposition leaders as well as leading newspapers have questioned the Benazir government over what could be described as a political impasse looming over the country.

After surviving vote on no-confidence move Benazir cabinet ministers resigned en-masse to give her a chance to select more competent people for her cabinet. This was obviously in response to opposition charge that government was being run by corrupt people. Benazir has yet to announce her cabinet.

COP had also expressed concern over the stalemate in state affairs due to Benazir's pregnancy. Benazir on Thursday gave birth to a baby girl — her second and first in office.

Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, chief of the Combined Opposition, reacting to Benazir's statement regarding the possibility of midterm elections said that the prime minister was harassing the MNAs who were disillusioned by the government policies.

Another hard critic of Benazir, Tehrik-e-Ittehad chief Air Marshall (Retd) Asghar Khan has expressed doubts over the current political situation saying: "There seems to be no government existing in the country."



Guarding TV
Troops in armoured vehicles guard a Pakistan Television station in Karachi in anticipation of a large opposition rally. Troops patrolled in trucks with mounted machineguns to prevent trouble between opposition and Benazir Bhutto's supporters. (Reuter wirephoto)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Greeks sentenced to imprisonment: A court in this northeastern city of Komotini on Friday found two prominent Greek-Muslims guilty of disrupting relations between the Christian and Muslim communities and sentenced them to 18 months imprisonment each.

Former parliamentarian Ahmet Sadiq, 43, and Ibrahim Sherif, 37, were found guilty of creating "dissension and hostility" and were ordered sent to prison in Salonika, 120 kms (75 miles) west of here. They have five days to appeal the court's decision, a court official said.

The three-member court also deprived them of their political rights for three years which meant they could not run for parliament and vote in an election. (AP)

Arms surrender order: The Sri Lankan government today ordered all defeated candidates of the provincial councils and parliamentary polls to return their weapons by February.

A statement issued by the Ministry of Defence said, all these unsuccessful candidates of 1988 polls for the country's provincial councils and last year's elections for the 225-seat Parliament should return the weapons that the ministry issued for their security to the nearest police station by February 1, this year. (Kural)

Lanka drug haul: Sri Lankan police detained a West German cargo vessel and were questioning its owner and crew today after drugs worth 10 million rupees (\$250,000) were found in a cylinder attached to the vessel's keel.

Assistant police superintendent Nimal Mahipala said dock workers alerted police on Friday when they discovered the cylinder, which they at first thought was a bomb.

A bomb disposal squad blasted open the container and found inside 5.8 kg (20 pounds) of cocaine and 52 kg (115 pounds) of hashish, Sri Lanka's largest drug seizure. (Reuter)

Violence in Athens: About 250 self-styled anarchists threw up flaming roadblocks and battled police in Athens Friday night, enraged by the acquittal of a police officer who killed a youth during a demonstration in 1985.

Police riot squad members fired tear-gas at demonstrators who had burned a police bus, said an officer at the riot scene, speaking on condition of anonymity. He said the protesters attacked police with gasoline bombs, sticks and stones.

An officer at police headquarters said four riot squad members had been "slightly injured in stone-throwing incidents." (AP)

Greece elections: The leaders of Greece's coalition government announced Friday that parliamentary elections will be held on April 8, bringing an end to an administration that had united the nation's three major political groups.

The announcement came after a meeting between the heads of the Conservative, Socialist and Communist parties and Premier Xenophon Zolotas. It did not mention whether a caretaker government would oversee the vote.

The three parties had put aside their differences in November to form a short-term government and prevent immediate recourse to elections after national polls on June 18 and Nov were inconclusive.

Filipino burnt to death: A 42-year-old Filipino housemaid and a 10-year-old Malaysian boy were burnt to death when a fire engulfed a bungalow in the United Garden, near Kuala Lumpur today.

A police spokesman said the housemaid identified as Etinda Baptista and the boy Wong Nam Seng were trapped on the top floor of the house.

However, the bungalow owner and his wife managed to escape, he added.

Meanwhile, according to a report, five members of a family were burnt to death when their car caught fire after it collided with a trailer in Johore, 228 km south of here yesterday. (Kural)

Unrest in Liberia: A radio station in a region where Liberian soldiers have been accused of indiscriminately massacring civilians in their search for rebels warned workers and others to stay indoors.

Meanwhile, the commanding officer of government troops searching for rebels near the Ivory Coast frontier predicted the guerrillas would soon be routed, and defended his troops' tactics.

Symbolic damages: The former lawyer for Marshall Philippe Petain, who led France's wartime government that collaborated with Nazi Germany, was ordered Friday to pay one franc of symbolic damages for a newspaper advertisement supporting Petain's policies.

Swiss block Indian accounts

BERNE, Jan 27, (Reuter): The Swiss government froze accounts at four banks yesterday after agreeing to help India probe allegations that Swedish arms maker Bofors paid about \$40 million in bribes to win a major defence contract.

Acting at the request of an Indian delegation, the office of police affairs ordered the accounts at the banks in Zurich and Geneva blocked, the Justice Ministry said.

The Indian government has alleged Bofors secretly paid 319.40 million Swedish crowns (\$40 million) in bribes into Swiss bank accounts to cement its sale of 410 howitzers worth \$1.3 billion to India in March, 1986.

Both sides had agreed no mid-trial would be involved and no commissions paid, leading investigators to conclude the payments — including three to accounts with the codenames Tulip, Lotus and Most Blanc — must have been bribes.

"It is alleged that a large part of the payments ultimately reached public servants as illegal gratifications," Central Bureau of Investigation director Rajendra Shekhar said in New Delhi on Monday.

India has filed charges of criminal conspiracy, corruption, abuse of official position by public servants, cheating, forgery and criminal breach of trust against several Indian officials.

Switzerland had turned down an Indian request for legal assistance in the case on Feb 23, 1989, ruling the tax fraud charges that investigators were pursuing were not an offence under Swiss law.

Strike shuts Punjab

8 killed in violence

CHANDIGARH, India, Jan 27, (UPI): A strike called to protest the killing of a Sikh militant leader paralysed Punjab today with shops shuttered, businesses closed and streets deserted, police said.

A day earlier, Sikh militants in separate incidents shot dead eight people, including a local leader of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party.

The strike was called by the dominant faction of the All-India Sikh Students Federation, which has been spearheading a campaign for an independent Sikh state, to protest the Jan 24 killing of the group's secretary general, Harminder Singh Sandhu.

Three Sikh militant groups and a rival student faction claimed responsibility for the killing of Sandhu. In a joint statement they alleged that Sandhu was working against the interest of the Sikhs and was an agent of central government.

Police in the state capital of Chandigarh said the strike was a success in all major towns of Punjab state, with businesses closed and only a few cars in the streets.

Authorities closed educational institutions and cancelled train services in several areas and all but a few public buses ceased operation.

Police said two Sikh militants shot and wounded a businessman who kept his shop open in violation of the strike call in Bhatinda, 130 miles (210 km) southwest of the state capital. There was no other strike-related violence reported.

Last evening however, Sikh separatists shot dead eight people in separate incidents, including the local leader of Congress (I) party.

Police said an undetermined number of gunmen stormed into the house of Harbans Singh in the village of Bhilampur in Amritsar district, dragging the victim out and killing him in a hail of gunfire.

Seven others were killed in four separate incidents across the state.

1985 bomb trial

NEW WESTMINSTER, Canada, Jan 27, (AP): A man facing charges in a 1985 Tokyo airport bombing that killed two baggage handlers will stand trial in September, a judge ruled yesterday.

Indarjit Singh Rayat, 37, a former resident of Duncan on Vancouver Island, was extradited from Coventry, England in December. He faces two manslaughter charges and five explosives charges.

Authorities have said Rayat is a Sikh. Although they have never disclosed a suspected motive for the bombing, their investigation has centered on a connection with Vancouver's 80,000 to 100,000 Sikhs — one-third of Canada's Sikhs — some of whom support the campaign of violence against the Indian government to create an independent homeland for their religious minority.

British Columbia Supreme Court Justice Howard Callaghan scheduled the trial for Sept 17 and said he will rule Feb 9 on a government motion to change the venue of the trial to suburban New Westminster from Vancouver.

Rayat's attorney, David Gibbons, has opposed the move, saying it would make it difficult for his Vancouver office to support him.

Now Available

The Original & covered copy of Indian films in

Kuwait National Cinema Co's

VIDEO SHOPS

Caution:

Kuwait National Cinema Co. S.A.K. announces that it has the sole rights of exploitation of the above-mentioned film in Kuwait (Cinema and Video) and warns anyone of dealing in this film, whether in selling or renting it or any other manner of exploitation. The company will take necessary legal action to protect its rights for this film.

Bingo Day 6

50 46 8 30

REQUIRED Video Technician

Full or part-time. Attractive salary. Tel. 2833892 - 2644593

8m Indians suffer mental illness

NEW DELHI, Jan 27, (UPI): A leading psychiatrist said that more than eight million Indians suffer from serious mental illness, the Press Trust of India news agency said on Thursday.

The news agency quoted Dr S.A. Emmanuel as saying that one per cent of India's 820 million people suffer from mental illness.

Emmanuel gave the figure on Wednesday during a speech he delivered in a meeting of the Indian Science-Writers Association in the northern Uttar Pradesh state capital of Lucknow, southeast of New Delhi.

Emmanuel told the gathering that Schizophrenia or split personality was the most common mental disorder among young Indians and that a delay in treatment would result in prolonged suffering.

The doctor listed 75 different types of mental illness and said hysteria was more common among women.

-101- Hair Regrowth Liniment

"101" YOUR MIRACLE HAIR RESTORER!

ZHANG GUANG

Available at:

AL-MOJIL PHARMACY,

TEL: 2428754

سوالی و جوابی

ARY 28, 1990
tte
same woman
Murdoch's
"Dirty Don"
by there was
with Thursday
my Pam says
justice Michael
technology in
1," the judge
riday the
ne is a young
Or
S
hey based the
finister Ben
ders were of
ions can be
People's wish
ional Assembly
giving opposi
ation of a leg
noble before
jab
ation, which
an independent
ing of the group
gh Sandhu
id a rival study
ed the killing of
of the Sikhs
trial
ing charges
will stand
in uncover the
two man
and never
has centered
the third of
against the
religious
lution, scheduled
to change
and
11" UR
ACLE
JR
ORER!
MACY
4

'Pump Up the Jam' stays top pop

NEW YORK, Jan. 27, (AP) — "Pump Up the Jam" kept Techno not at the top of the pop singles record charts in the United States for the second week in a row.

"How Am I Supposed To Live Without You" by Michael Bolton was second on the Cash Box magazine chart. "Another Day In Paradise" by Phil Collins was third.

Soaring onto the top 10 pop list was "Downtown Train" by Rod Stewart, up from 12th to 4th.

Three other newcomers were "Free Fallin'" by Tom Petty, up from 15th to 8th; "Love Song" by Tesla, up from 14th to 9th; and "Two To Make It Right" by Seduction, up from 17th to 10th.

As for the country-and-western singles, Tanya Tucker took over as number one on the Cash Box magazine chart with "My Arms Stay Open All Night." Keith Whitley's "It Ain't Nothin'" was second and "Southern Star" by Alabama was third.

The top 10 pop singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with the previous listings in brackets:

1. (1) Pump Up the Jam — Techno (SBK).
2. (5) How Am I Supposed To Live Without You — Michael Bolton (Columbia).
3. (2) Another Day In Paradise — Phil Collins (Atlantic).
4. (12) Downtown Train — Rod Stewart (Warner Brothers).
5. (19) Everything — Jody Watley (MCA).
6. (7) Just Between You and Me — Lon Gramm (Atlantic).
7. (8) Rhythm Nation — Janet Jackson (A & M).
8. (15) Free Fallin' — Tom Petty (MCA).
9. (14) Love Song — Tesla (Geffen).
10. (17) Two To Make It Right — Seduction (Vendetta-A & M).

The top 10 country-and-western singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

1. (8) My Arms Stay Open All Night — Tanya Tucker (Capitol).
2. (3) It Ain't Nothin' — Keith Whitley (RCA).
3. (12) Southern Star — Alabama (RCA).
4. (6) I Can't Turn the Tide — RCA.
5. (5) Many A Long and Lonesome Highway — Rodney Crowell (Columbia).
6. (10) When I Could Come Home To You — Steve Wariner (MCA).
7. (7) Nobody's Home — Clink Black (RCA).
8. (12) Statue Of A Fool — Ricky Van Shelton (Columbia).
9. (x) In My Eyes — Lionel Cartwright (MCA).
10. (x) Fast Moving Train — Restless Heart (RCA).

London: Sinead O'Connor zoomed from off the charts to Number 1 on the British pop singles chart this week with "Nothing Compares To U."

First photon computer developed

HOLMDEL, New Jersey, Jan. 27, (AP) — AT&T Bell Laboratories plans to announce the development of a computer that runs on photons instead of electrons, creating the potential for vastly more powerful computers, an official said yesterday.

The company has set a news conference for Monday, but refused to comment on its subject matter.

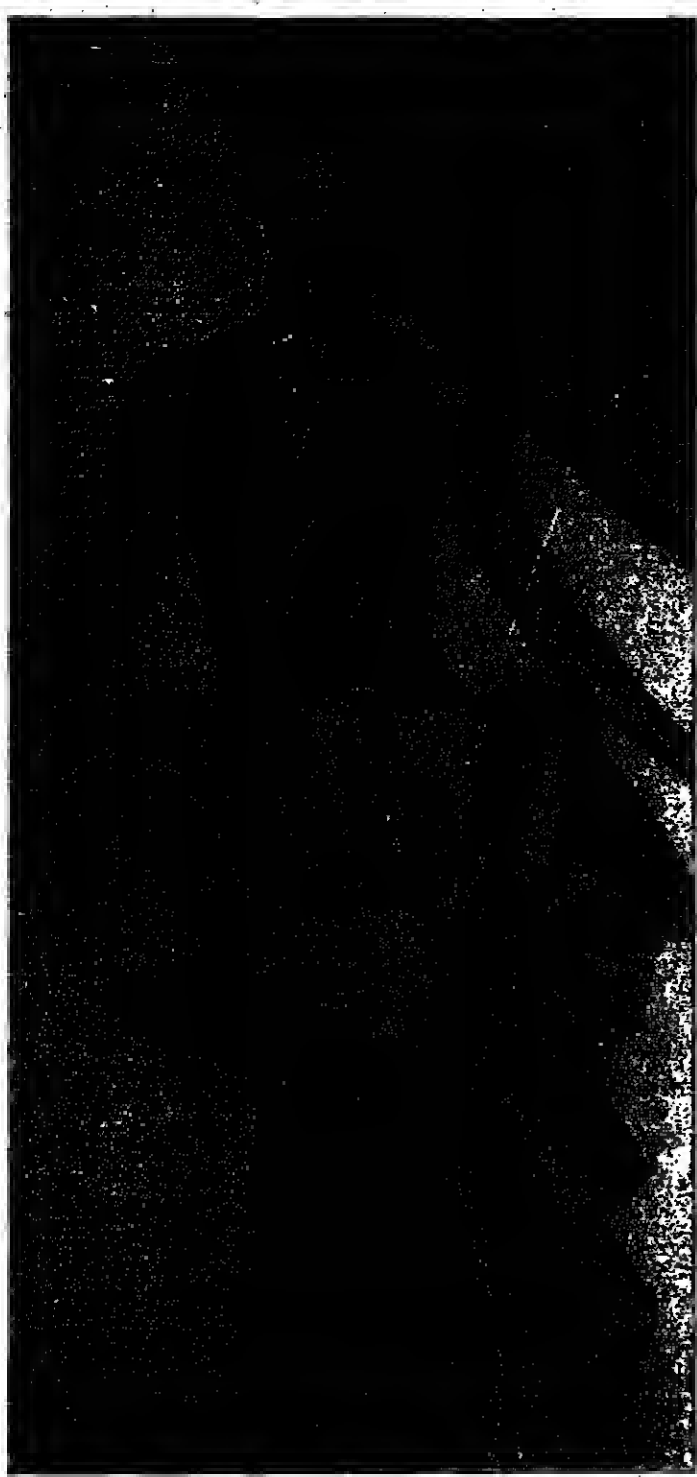
But an industry official familiar with the research, who spoke on condition of anonymity, confirmed the conference would be about the creation of a "photonics" computer.

Such a computer would transmit information with photons, the fundamental particles of light, rather than electronic impulses.

The prototype to be unveiled Monday is a fairly rudimentary device that runs at a low level of power, but is believed to be the first to run on photons, the official said.

Scientists believe such computers some day may run at speeds thousands of times faster than today's versions.

CARBON
BRUSHES • BUSHES • RINGS
SEALS • THRUST DISC
TUBES • SLIDE RAILS •
3 allied Products for
Chemical, Engineering, Textiles,
Papers, Sugar, Fertilizers and
allied industries
CA CARBO
FLEX AGENCIES
87, PAVAN ROAD, LOWER CHANAL,
CARAMELO'S BLDG, FIRST FLOOR,
SOMERSET 2 TEL: 252228/252398.
(INDIA)



Designer Lucien-Hamant presenting his satin evening dress with upturned ruffled hem as part of the spring-summer high fashion collection in Paris. (Reuter wirephoto)

Summer haute couture Designers rely on femininity

PARIS, Jan. 27, (AP) — Romance and femininity were in the air and on the runways as top designers unveiled their summer haute couture offerings.

Short skirts, curvy silhouettes, swooping décolletés and charming colors were the most striking messages in the week of shows. If the top designers have guessed right, women want to be more feminine than ever as the new decade begins.

There were also plenty of well-cut pants for daytime or evening as an alternative for women who would rather hide than bare their legs.

It was a rollercoaster week. The grandmasters triumphed, including Yves Saint Laurent, Hubert de Givenchy, Karl Lagerfeld at Chanel and new master Christian Lacroix.

Paco Rabanne, a 56-year-old Spanish-born designer, won the Golden Thimble award. Having worked in Paris for nearly 40 years, Rabanne finally overcame his "metallic sculptor" image to garner the coveted prize awarded twice yearly by fashion writers.

But things didn't go so well in houses with new couture creators drawn from the ranks of ready-to-wear. The inventive Claude Montana, who took over as Lanvin's haute couture designer, drew sullen reviews.

His clothes, featuring mainly skinny pants with various toppers, looked too self-consciously "futuristic" for the moneyed set that's used to feminine clothes from Lanvin.

Another flop was Angelo Tiarazzi's second collection for Guy Laroche. Though he had some zingy raffia-bordered south-of-the-Mexican-border stuff plus cute stitched peasant dresses and gringo pants, the show didn't quite make the couture grade.

But there was much to remember elsewhere, and the beauty of couture is that each client — and those who are inspired by couture looks — can opt for skirt lengths longer than the sensational runway models.

Who's going to wear this, wonder bemused television viewers.

\$2m for Jackson portrait

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 26, (Reuter) — Pop music superstar Michael Jackson yesterday unveiled a painting of himself bought by a Japanese businessman for \$2.1 million and said to be the world's most valuable portrait of a living person.

The painting, by Australian artist Brett Livingston Strong, is called "The Book," and was bought by Hiromichi Saeki, president of the Pax Corp of Tokyo, a multinational company trading in hotels, real estate, and sports and leisure complexes.

At a news conference to unveil the 50-inch (127-cm) by 40-inch (102-cm) canvas, Saeki feigned surprise at being asked why he thought the portrait was worth \$2.1 million.

"I think I got a bargain. I think it's cheap at that price, the 43-year-old entrepreneur replied. "Michael Jackson is priceless. This painting is one of a kind. There is no other painting in the world like it."

Filmmaker seeks bankruptcy protection as 'Godfather' filming continues

Coppola working out repayment

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 27, (AP) — Filmmaker Francis Ford Coppola and his Zoetrope Productions have sought bankruptcy protection from creditors, even as filming of the third "Godfather" movie continued in Rome.

Coppola and Zoetrope Productions, one of several companies he has operated under the Zoetrope name over the years, filed separately under Chapter 11 of the US Bankruptcy Act on Thursday. That allows them to operate free from creditors' lawsuits while they try to work out a repayment plan.

Zoetrope issued a statement saying the filings were intended to provide protection from continued legal wrangling that began

during production of Coppola's 1981 film "One From the Heart," a \$26 million picture that drew just \$1 million at the box office.

Two affiliated companies, Zoetrope Corp. and Zoetrope Studios, were unaffected by the filing, the statement said.

The filings were made in US Bankruptcy Court in Santa Rosa, near Coppola's vineyard and winery where Coppola produces expensive Bordeaux-styled wine and lives in a century-old farmhouse.

He was in Rome, directing "the Godfather Part III" for Paramount Pictures. The \$40 million movie about the Corleone organized crime family was on budget and

unaffected by the bankruptcy filings, Paramount senior vice-president Deborah Rosen said.

Coppola did not total his assets or liabilities in his filing, which was also made under the business names of Sophia Properties — he has a daughter named Sophia — and Niebaum Coppola estates. He listed a \$3 million debt to Darion Development of Los Angeles.

Zoetrope, based in San Francisco, listed assets of \$22.2 million and debts of \$28.9 million. It identified its largest creditors as Hot Weather Films-Pony Boy Inc., \$16.2 million and Orion Pictures, \$6.2 million.

Hot Weather and Pony Boy were companies Coppola set up to produce the

movies "Rumble Fish" and "The Outsiders" after Zoetrope studios collapsed.

Artistic and financial turmoil surrounded nearly all Coppola's films. His critical and commercial success reached its height in 1972 and 1974 with "The Godfather," and "The Godfather Part II." His most ambitious film, "Apocalypse Now," went far over budget.

He launched Zoetrope as an experimental film studio in San Francisco in 1969. Then he bought the Hollywood General Studios lot in 1979 for \$6.7 million, trying to recreate a "Golden Age" studio by hiring stars like Nastassja Kinski, Teri Garr and Frederic Forrest as "contract players."

Influenza epidemic sweeps the States

ATLANTA, Jan. 27, (UPI) — The nation's worst flu epidemic in seven years was responsible for at least 1,143 deaths last week alone, federal health officials say.

The National Center for Disease Control reported Thursday that several states are especially hard-hit by the flu this winter and the disease accounted for 7.6 per cent of all 15,090 deaths reported across the country last week.

CDC viral disease expert Walter Guna said the percentage of flu-related deaths was significantly higher than normal for the second straight week.

"That's higher than anything since the flu season of 1962-1963," Guna said. "This qualifies as an epidemic and confirms our earlier concerns that this would be a worse-than-average year."

The CDC said 18 states have reported widespread flu outbreaks in counties that account for more than half their state's population. They are Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, Missouri, Texas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, South Dakota, Montana, Idaho and Arizona.

Guna said people who might be at risk of the flu could still protect themselves by getting vaccinated immediately, and he urged older people and those with heart and lung disorders to get shots.

He also warned of danger to doctors, nurses and other health care workers who might be exposed to a large number of influenza patients.

"There's still time. It only takes two weeks to build up your immunity," he said.

The flu season typically peaks in mid-February, but researchers would not predict whether this year's death toll would keep rising in the coming weeks.

Doctors said this year's most common flu strain appears to be A-Singapore, which seems to cause more deaths than other types of the virus. Researchers also have confirmed some cases of A-Taiwan flu and an unidentified B strain of the virus.

DUBLIN: Two men appeared in court on Friday after breaking into Dublin Castle, once the seat of British colonial rule in Ireland, to tear down the British flag.

The incident acutely embarrassed the authorities, who have spent two million pounds (\$3 million) on security at the refurbished castle, main venue for ministerial meetings during Ireland's presidency of the European Economic Community.

The flags of the 12 EEC members will be flown there for the next six months.

Police said the two men, believed to be students, were caught after scaling two high walls to get into the castle but were stopped before they could tear down the Union Jack.

A police statement said they later appeared before Dublin district court on charges relating to interference with a number of flags on display. (Reuter)

ZURICH: The Matterhorn, Switzerland's distinctive, pyramid-shaped landmark, will have to remain as dark at night as lesser mountains.

The population of Zermatt, the village at the foot of the 4,477-metre (14,686-foot) mountain, voted against a plan to light it by laser at night for publicity.

The villagers wanted to show their respect for the mountain, a Zermatt councillor said on Friday.

Engineer Herbert Schoetti, who initiated the idea, was philosophical. "The Matterhorn has been messed about with too much up to now," he said.

He said previous Matterhorn schemes, such as a Japanese plan to set a huge camera on the summit, had caused resentment.

An earlier project by Schoetti to hand lanterns along each of the Matterhorn's three ridges was also turned down. (Reuter)

CHATTANOOGA, Tennessee: A man who served 43 years in prison for hijacking a jetliner to Cuba and challenged the city government as racially discriminatory says he plans to run for a seat on the city council.

Lorenzo Ervin Jr said Thursday he is trying to get his full citizenship restored so he can qualify as a candidate in the May 1 election.

In Tennessee, people convicted of felonies and sentenced to prison are barred from public office unless a state circuit court has granted full rights of citizenship, said Hamilton county election registrar Steve Conrad.

PEOPLE AND PLACES



Victory smile

Australian Open tennis champion Steffi Graf talks to the media wearing an akubra, an Australian style stockman's hat after her straight sets win over American Mary Joe Fernandez today. Graf won the title for the third consecutive year 6-3, 6-4. (Reuter wirephoto) See Page 20.

Ervin was convicted in 1970 of two counts of air piracy and kidnapping for boarding an Eastern Airlines jet in Atlanta and forcing the crew at gunpoint to fly to Cuba. (AP)

CALGARY, Canada: A screenwriter who launched a \$128 million plagiarism suit against Star Wars creator George Lucas hasn't proved the disputed ideas are his or that Lucas stole them, Lucas' lawyer told court Friday.

Lucas' lawyer Graham Denton, are during final arguments that Dean Preston's co-author David Henry should have launched the suit because the ideas in the "Space Pats" script Lucas allegedly stole from are really his.

Dutton also said the Space Pats characters called Ewoks, resembling the Ewoks characters in Lucas' 1983 film "Return of the Jedi," were not sufficiently defined to allow copyright to exist, and that Preston

Throughout his life, Mumford was obsessed with the relationship between man and technology, and took it upon himself to cry out against what he considered the inhuman qualities of modern architecture — particularly skyscrapers which he called "towering urbanoid anthills."

In 29 books and countless articles, Mumford preached his vision of the good life. Key works were "Techniques and Civilization" (1934) and "The City in History" for which he won the U.S. National Book Award in 1961. (Reuter)

PARIS: The French news agency Agence France-Press (AFP) announced on Friday it had appointed veteran journalist Claude Moley as its new head.

Moley, 62, who joined AFP in 1957, ran the agency's US operations for 10 years until September 1989 when he returned to Paris to take charge of international development.

He succeeds the current chairman and managing director, Jean-Louis Guillaud, who withdrew on Wednesday after government representatives of the 15-member board refused to vote for a new three-year term for him.

Moley, bureau chief in London from 1974 to 1976, emerged as a compromise candidate after Guillaud's withdrawal.

An AFP statement gave no details of the voting but journalists at the agency said 13 board members supported Moley. Two staff representatives on the board traditionally abstain. (Reuter)

EL CENTRO, California: Two jets in the navy's Blue Angels precision flying team collided while practicing a stunt, causing one plane to crash into a mountain, the navy said. The pilot of the downed jet ejected safely.

The FA-18 Hornet plunged into 759-foot (231-meter) Superstition Mountain about 20 miles (32 kilometers) from El Centro on Tuesday, said Mike Ray, a spokesman at the El Centro Naval Air Facility.

In Hawaii, the coast guard, marines and navy resumed the search Wednesday for a marine pilot whose helicopter crashed during training maneuvers. The CH-46 Sea Knight went down Monday about 25 miles (40 kilometers) from Oahu. Three rescued marines were in satisfactory condition.

mazda
Let us talk figures!

- Good cash prices.
- Excellent terms and credit facilities.
- Great trade-in offers.

Mazda 929
Model **1990**
Starting from **KD. 3.400**
For the first time, only Mazda offers **2 years warranty or.... 60.000 kms**

Kuwait Automotive Imports Co. W.L.L.
Shuja & Sagar
Main Showroom Tel: 2421276. Al Rai Showroom Tel: 4717572/3
Al Ahmadi Showroom Tel: 3988125

France puts off aid to Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti, Jan. 27. (AP) — Haiti's military ruler says he is lifting a 30-day state of siege under which the security forces rounded up dozens of political activists and forced at least seven into exile.

Speaking live last night on government radio and television, Lt. Gen. Prosper Avril said the state of siege would be withdrawn Tuesday — 18 days early — "in view of the positive results already obtained."

It was unclear whether Avril was bowing to diplomatic pressure or had concluded that his 16-month-old government had succeeded in quieting the opposition in Haiti.

Earlier yesterday, France said it was suspending economic assistance and talks on a \$500-million aid package for Haiti, one of the world's poorest nations, to protest Avril's crackdown on political dissidents.

Denounced
The 12-nation European Economic Community also issued a protest yesterday. And Avril was under pressure from the United States, which denounced the state of siege as a "blatant assault on basic civil liberties."

The United States suspended \$60 million a year in direct aid to Haiti after election violence in 1987.

Avril did not say last night whether the seven exiled opposition leaders would be allowed back, but the Interior and Defense Minister, Brig. Gen. Frits Romulus, had said they could take part in planned elections in October.

The military also did not indicate whether censorship imposed on independent radio and television would be lifted.

Avril, wearing his uniform and sitting at his desk at the national palace, addressed the nation before the start of the nightly news on state television. He read from a prepared text in French, rather than Creole, the language of 90 per cent of Haiti's 5.7 million people.

The state of siege was imposed on Jan. 20, one day after unidentified gunmen killed Army Col. Andre Neptune, his wife and their housemaid.

Avril, who attended Neptune's funeral yesterday, blamed the assassination on "terrorists" and "anarchists."

In an apparent reference to the exiled opposition leaders, Avril said "political demagogues" had helped create a climate of insecurity in the country.

Among the politicians forced into exile were Dr. Louis Roy, one of the authors of the 1987 constitution, and Hubert de Ronceray, a prominent conservative and former presidential candidate.

They were among an estimated 50 activists arrested and reportedly beaten in a military sweep last weekend.

Although he did not acknowledge mistreatment by the military, Avril said the "furore of the soldiers" after Neptune's killing was understandable.

He said the security forces had been hamstrung by certain constitutional guarantees, including a 48-hour time limit on holding suspects without charge.

Extraordinary measures were necessary, Avril said "to safeguard our young, tottering, staggering democracy."

Critics have accused him of using the colonel's assassination as a pretext to suppress opposition and renege on a pledge to turn over power to a democratically elected government.

Noriega ordered held without bail

Defence seeks PoW status

MIAMI, Jan. 27. (AP) — A US judge ordered Manuel Noriega held without bond Friday after his attorneys repudiated the court's jurisdiction, insisting the deposed Panamanian general be declared a prisoner of war and sent to a neutral country.

Government prosecutors suggested that Noriega may have placed a voodoo-type curse on the federal district court judge, William Hoeveler, and on US Attorney-General Dick Thornburgh, the nation's top law enforcement official.

The government said Hoeveler's and Thornburgh's names were found at a Noriega office where a black magic altar was discovered during the US invasion of Panama in December.

Prosecutors argued against releasing Noriega on bail, saying he has enough money to flee to another country. Among his known assets, they listed homes, bank deposits, sports cars and other property worth up

No law and order

Panama unruly

PANAMA CITY, Jan. 27. (Reuters) — The shooting death of a US civilian during a robbery this week is symptomatic of a breakdown in law and order in Panama City that is spreading fear among residents and is unlikely to end soon, diplomats say.

With unemployment above 30 per cent and large numbers of arms still believed to be in circulation five weeks after American troops invaded the Central American country to overthrow military strongman Manuel Antonio Noriega and install a new government, newspapers are full of daily reports of assaults, robberies and shootings.

"The reports of increasing numbers of armed assaults have certainly made the population ... very worried and very frightened," said a European diplomat.

In one incident last week, four masked men carrying Soviet-designed AK-47s robbed a bank of \$100,000 and fled.

On Tuesday evening, a senior American employee of the Panama Canal Commission, Edward Joyce, was gunned down in his house by two intruders who took jewelry and weapons from his gun collection.

A day earlier, another American working for the commission, David Baerg, was tied up, robbed and beaten in an early morning burglary at his home.

Government officials say they do not believe the violence is political in nature or being carried out by supporters of Noriega, now in Miami facing drug trafficking and racketeering charges.

But they acknowledge they have limited amount of time to revive an economy that has been battered over the last two years by the political crisis over Noriega. US sanctions imposed to force his removal and widespread looting during the invasion.

"We need (money within) 30 days because the honeymoon could be over," Vice President Guillermo Ford told Reuters this week before US President George Bush announced his proposed \$1-billion aid package on Thursday.

President Guillermo Endara said the US aid, which must still be approved by Congress, would be used to create jobs for Panama's poor, help restore its public sector, as well toward humanitarian assistance.

But even with the infusion of aid, the situation is not likely to be turned around quickly.

"Business people are all concerned about this security thing right now and it's not going to be solved in a week," said Fred Denton, president of the American Chamber of Commerce. "I'm concerned we're going to have a period of three-to-six months of difficulty."

Armed guards, some toting rifles and shotguns, are a common sight in front of many stores and some owners have been known to carry electric stun guns.



Reagan called 'a coward'

Former president Ronald Reagan denied Friday allegations by Iran-Contra middleman Richard Secord, who accused him of continuing to avoid a full accounting of his role in the arms-for-hostages deal to finance Nicaraguan rebels.

Secord, who was sentenced Wednesday to two years' probation for lying to a congressional panel investigating the affair, accused Reagan of being "cowardly" and of "hiding out" to avoid telling the truth.

During a visit to a junior high school, Reagan said he explained the secret arms sale to Iran when it first came to light three years ago. He has denied knowing the arms sale money was to be diverted to the Contras.

"Mr. Secord doesn't know what he's talking about," Reagan said in response to a reporter's question. "And I think if you check it, you will find that once exposed, I went on the air and told the American people what we had been doing, and I gathered the leadership of the Congress and told them what we were doing."

"I told them within 24 hours after the thing came to light," he said. Reagan is in New Orleans for the Super Bowl. He spoke to stockbrokers and executives of Merrill Lynch Co. after his arrival late Thursday.

Friday morning he visited with several hundred students at Andrew J. Bell Junior High School, where he talked to them about free enterprise and job questions.

Secord, a retired air force major general, shown above (right), pleaded guilty to a single count of hiding from congressional investigators the fact he bought a \$13,800 home security system for Oliver North.

Under an agreement with prosecutors, 11 other charges against Secord were dropped in exchange for the guilty plea. (Reuters wirephoto)

to \$30 million, including \$5.8 million in cash found at his Panama ranch.

They also called the 51-year-old Noriega an expert in counterterrorism and covert actions who still has a loyal band of armed followers.

Danger

"Mr. Noriega is an extraordinary danger to the community," prosecutor Myles Malman told Hoeveler, noting that the former Panamanian leader came up to 145 years in prison if convicted on all the drug trafficking charges against him.

Defence attorney Frank Rubino opened the hearing by telling the judge the defence would not participate because it challenges the jurisdiction of the US courts.

Noriega sat quietly nearby in military uniform listening with interpreter's headphones. In a legal motion delivered Friday morning to President George Bush and US Secretary of State James Baker, Noriega's lawyers said he "relinquished the status of prisoner of war pursuant to the Geneva Convention."

Motion

"There can be absolutely no question, whatsoever, that the invasion of Panama by the United States military totally and completely fulfills the definition of armed conflict," Rubino said, reading from the motion.

Hoeveler did not consider the motion immediately, and Malman began his arguments against releasing Noriega on bond.

As part of his presentation, Malman implied that a curse may have been placed on Hoeveler, Thornburgh and two other men whose names were

found on a white sheet of paper confiscated by US troops at Noriega's Fort Amador office — referred to as the "witch house" because of black magic paraphernalia discovered there.

The other two names on the list were Charles Saphos, head of the Justice Department's drug section, and Mark Schnapp, a former Miami federal prosecutor who helped bring about Noriega's indictment on drug charges in February 1988.

"Maybe I better not enter it into evidence," the judge joked as Malman handed him the list.

Malman said the government would show that Noriega has a \$400,000 condominium in Paris, and that \$5,800,000 in cash was found in envelopes marked "confidential" in his three-story home in Panama. The prosecution also introduced photos of deposit slips showing that Noriega's 17-year-old daughter deposited \$1.3 million in Panamanian banks in September 1989.

"The US government has frozen \$20 million in Noriega assets — \$4.8 million in Luxembourg; \$2.3 million in France, \$8 million in Switzerland, \$1.6 million in Austria and \$3.5 million in other accounts that we do not wish to disclose at this time," Malman said.

The prosecution maintained that Noriega also transferred about \$16 million from his account at Bank of Credit and Commerce International's London branch to his Luxembourg branch a week after the indictment was unsealed. It was not clear whether the deposits and seizures were duplicated in the prosecution's listings.

In addition to the vast sums Noriega was said to have deposited overseas, Malman said Noriega also had friends in countries at odds with the United States, including Cuba and Libya. He noted that Moammar Khaddafi had presented Noriega with his and his Khaddafi wives, which the Libyan leader gives to personal acquaintances.

Noriega has been held without bail since he was flown to the United States Jan. 4 and jailed in the federal courthouse basement here to face 12 drug-trafficking counts from the 1988 indictment.



Let Nicaraguans decide

Former US president Jimmy Carter Friday said Congress would not authorize covert funds for Nicaragua, and it would be the Nicaraguan people who would decide the outcome of Feb. 25 national elections.

"What must be emphasized here, is that there will not be a flow of covert funds to Nicaragua," Carter told reporters upon his arrival on a three-day fact-finding visit to Nicaragua.

The US Congress has approved \$9 million in election contributions to Nicaragua, of which \$1.9 million is expected to be given to the United National Opposition, or UNO, \$1.9 million to Nicaragua's supreme electoral council and the rest to other institutions and observer groups.

Carter said neither democrats nor republicans are enthusiastic about funneling more money into Nicaragua, and least of all any covert money.

The United States in recent years has provided military aid and funds to Nicaragua's Contra rebels, which have been attempting to overthrow the government. Since February 1988, the United States has suspended all but humanitarian aid to the Contras under a peace plan drawn up by live Central American presidents.

President Daniel Ortega said Friday he would release all the country's estimated 2,500 political prisoners if he is re-elected Feb. 25.

Ortega, outlining the 1990 fiscal plan to a gathering of 1,500 transportation workers at Managua's convention centre, said he had spoken with Cardinal Miguel Obando Y. Bravo and "we talked about the prisoners."

Carter is shown with Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto. (Reuters wirephoto)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Chileans first to discover: Astronomers at a Chilean observatory reported the first close observation and detailed photographs of a recently discovered comet, said to be ten times brighter than Halley's.

The work was conducted by astronomers Patrice Bouchet of France and Rolando Vega of Chile at the European Southern Observatory in La Silla, where they were working as visiting specialists.

The site is near La Serena, a city 472 kilometres (290 miles) north of Santiago.

Bouchet, confirming reports by local papers, said Friday in a telephone interview that the comet, named Austin 1989 C1, will allow scientists to gather valuable new data on the origins of the solar system. (AP)

Duarte clings to life: Former Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte, terminally ill with liver and stomach cancer, Friday clung tenaciously to life, family members said in San Salvador.

"Right now he is resting. He has eaten and he is animated," Duarte's daughter, Maria Elena, told United Press International in a telephone interview from the house where Duarte is bedridden.

Maria Elena, contacted at midday, said Duarte was "much better than yesterday (Thursday)." Doctors had said the former president's health had deteriorated during the week and that he was close to death.

Doctors gave Duarte six months to live in May 1989, when his cancer was diagnosed. But Duarte did not let the disease keep him from finishing a five-year presidential term that ended June 1, 1989. (UPI)

Germany promises anti-drug aid: East Germany will provide some \$60 million this year to Bolivia, Peru and Colombia to help battle cocaine trafficking, West German Ambassador Hermann Saunweber said Friday.

The ambassador made the announcement in Santa Cruz, 355 miles (570 km) southeast of La Paz, where authorities were carrying out the second day of a massive operation to ground airplanes used by cocaine traffickers.

Saunweber also said European nations would watch with interest the anti-drug summit set for Feb. 15 in Cartagena, Colombia, between President George Bush and the three South American nations. The United States is providing \$125 million to the three nations this year for anti-cocaine programmes. (UPI)

Mission to focus on US aid: US Vice-President Dan Quayle, rebuffed in a bid to make a fence-mending tour of Latin America after the US invasion of Panama, visits Honduras on Saturday for talks dealing more with symbolism than substance, it was reported in Miami.

The vice-president essentially had to scrap plans for a trip through much of Latin America to calm anger over the December 20 invasion that overthrew



Friends of Animals

Elephant masked members of "Friends of Animals" group stand by a fire near the British Embassy in Paris, Jan. 24. This action was in protest of British and Chinese government rejection of the international ban against elephant ivory trade. (Reuters wirephoto)

Panamanian military strongman Manuel Antonio Noriega, who was forced to settle for brief meetings in Honduras with President Rafael Angel Calderon and the leaders of Venezuela, Costa Rica, Belize, El Salvador and Guatemala.

"My message will be one of friendship, consultation, where do we go from here," Quayle told reporters on Friday. "How do we build democracy in Panama and how do we build democracy in the hemisphere." (Reuters)

April M19 lay down arms: One of Colombia's leftist guerrilla groups made peace with the government but another rebel organisation continued its campaign on hit-and-run attacks, kidnappings and sabotage, police said Friday in Bogota.

Back my war on drugs: Bush

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27. (AP) — President George Bush appealed to the nation's mayors yesterday to support his drug-fighting strategy and said he would use "the bully pulpit" of the White House to ask Americans to volunteer money and time for the effort.

One day after proposing \$1.1 billion increase in antidrug efforts, Bush said: "I ask you to support our strategy to take back the streets from crime and drugs."

Bush's address before a convention of the US Conference of Mayors drew mixed applause. Democrats have complained that the Republican president's package, totalling \$10.6 billion, is not enough.

Need cash: turn in a dope dealer

ANDERSON, Jan. 27. (AP) — A sheriff is encouraging residents to buy illegal drugs — and promising them up to 25 per cent of any money or assets seized from dealers they help arrest.

"I want people to realise they can make some really good money, depending on how much they co-operate," said Anderson county sheriff Gene Taylor. Taylor, who is putting some of his own money into a campaign to spread word about the programme.

Billboards scheduled to go up Feb. 2 will feature the slogan "Need cash? Turn in a dope dealer."

Participants may either work as buyers who testify in court or as confidential informants, although those who testify probably will be paid more, Taylor said. Security will be provided during drug transactions and informants won't face criminal charges for assisting in investigations.

"They'll be watched closely," he said. "An officer would be within seconds of them."

Taylor said his six narcotics agents are swamped and he needs more help with drug cases. The sheriff's programme is modelled after one used by federal authorities that grant informants up to 25 per cent of money or assets seized. The billboard programme is a joint venture between the sheriff's office and a Summey Outdoor Advertising Inc.

US judge favours begging

It's a form of free speech: ruling

NEW YORK, Jan. 27. (UPI) — In an unprecedented ruling, a federal judge Friday overturned a ban on begging in the New York City subway system, saying panhandling was a form of free speech protected by the constitution.

"While often disturbing and sometimes alarmingly graphic, begging is unmistakably informative and persuasive speech," US district judge Leonard Sand wrote in his 42-page ruling.

"The simple request for money ... cannot but remind the passer-by that people in the city live in poverty and often lack the essentials for survival," the judge added.

The ruling was hailed by lawyers for two homeless men who brought the class action suit against the transit authority, which is the agency that operates the city's subways and began the crackdown on panhandlers last fall.

"This is the first time a federal court has ruled that begging is protected by the first amendment," said one of the lawyers, George Sommers.

In his ruling the judge said laws exist in 25 other states banning begging. It was unclear what effect his decision would have in those jurisdictions and whether any appeals to those laws would follow.

In overturning the ban on panhandling in the

subways, the judge ruled other restrictions were permissible in the transit authority's highly publicised crackdown, dubbed "operation enforcement" — including bans on drinking alcohol, amplified music and sleeping in the subways.

"It is the total prohibition of all begging on all of (transit authority) facilities which is constitutionally impermissible. The existing provisions banning conduct which harasses, menaces, impedes traffic or otherwise causes harm are not challenged in this case and remain in force," the judge said.

Douglas Lasdon, executive director of the legal action centre for the homeless, one of the plaintiffs, hailed the judge's ruling as an important victory for the downtrodden.

"It reaffirms the principle that in this country you can not solve a social problem by silencing poor people," Lasdon said.

"We hope the decision focuses attention on the reasons people are forced to beg — on the inadequate systems available to help homeless people," he added.

Tito Davila, a spokesman for the metropolitan transportation authority, the TA's parent agency, said the authority was "obviously upset with the decision."

Barry tried to seduce FBI informant before falling into cocaine trap

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27. (AP) — Mayor Marion Barry made repeated sexual advances to the woman reported to have helped the FBI lure him into a cocaine trap, law enforcement sources say.

Barry, whom the FBI says videotaped buying and smoking crack cocaine, repeatedly asked Rasheda Monroe to make love during the visit last week to her hotel room that ended in his arrest on a misdemeanor drug possession charge, the sources said Thursday.

Barry, who is married, kissed and touched the woman, but the former model rebuffed his advances, said the sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

FBI agents used a surveillance camera to watch Barry purchase crack cocaine and smoke the illegal drug during the 45-minute visit to Ms. Monroe's hotel room on Jan. 18, according to an affidavit filed in the case.

Ms. Monroe's refusal to have sex with the mayor was in accordance with instructions

she received before the undercover sting began, sources said.

She also was told to let the mayor suggest any drug use to avoid a defence claim he was entrapped. Ms. Monroe was told not to use drugs, the sources said.

Barry, who this week checked into a Florida drug rehabilitation clinic after turning over his mayoral duties to the city administrator, conducted city business on the telephone in Ms. Monroe's room, said

one source.

Ms. Monroe, a former model who has posed in national magazines, had a long-standing romantic relationship with Barry that included frequent cocaine use, law enforcement sources say.

She agreed to co-operate with the FBI's year-long investigation of Barry's alleged drug use following her arrest Jan. 1 in north Hollywood, California, on a driving while intoxicated charge.

Engine failure, low fuel caused crash

89 survived: probe into Colombian air disaster begins

COVE NECK, N.Y., Jan 27, (Reuters): Investigators probing the crash of a Colombian airliner are trying to find out why three of its engines had stopped and why it was very low on fuel when it slammed into a secluded New York suburb while trying to land.

Lee Dickinson, a member of the National Transportation Safety Board, said last night that three of the Boeing 707's four engines weren't working and it had only 1,250 gallons (4,700 litres) of fuel when it crashed in Cove Neck, Long Island, on Thursday night.



A clergyman comforts a survivor. (Reuters wirephoto)

Survivors tell of miracle, tragedy

MANHASSET, New York, Jan 27, (AP): Jorge Lozano felt the flight turn bumpy.

"The ladies and kids started screaming," the 52-year-old Bogota, Colombia businessman who survived the crash of Avianca flight 52, said.

"I thought we were going to crash," he said. "I had time to say a prayer. I put my hands over my knees because I didn't have a pillow."

"I bent over in the crash position. In about five seconds we were crashing into the trees."

The plane of the Boeing 707 into a hillside Thursday night on the north shore of Long Island killed at least 66 people, Lozano who escaped with a cracked vertebra, a gash on his head and a swollen tongue, said his survival was a miracle.

Whispering in English from his bed at north shore university hospital, Lozano's account touched on the curious aspects of the disaster—a low pass over Kennedy Airport, a lack of communication from the cockpit to the passengers and the possibility that the jet ran out of fuel.

"I'm so lucky," Lozano said. "My wife is flying in today (Friday) to see me from Bogota."

Flight 52 was already running late when it hit the fog-shrouded New York City area, he said.

"We were told 20 minutes from landing but because of congestion at airport conditions we were going to have an additional 20 minutes before landing," said Lozano, who sat in the first class section.

About 9:15 pm or 9:20, (0215 or 0220 GMT Friday) "we tried to land. We flew low. I recognized the lights. We flew by—apparently the runway was not visible. We went up, circling very high. Then, 10 minutes later, it was bumpy," he said.

Then the screaming started. "The pilot or stewardess didn't say a thing. I think the guy ran out of gas," Lozano said. "Inside, the lights went off. Outside, the lights were off. But there was a little light inside the plane. I guess it was run by battery."

"I think the guy ran out of gas. I think that's why we survived, because there was no gas in the tanks," he said. Residents said they heard neither the roar of jet engines, nor an explosion when the jet crashed. Authorities on the scene also speculated that the plane was empty of fuel.

"I was wondering why the pilot didn't say a word," he said.

Then came the impact. When the crashing stopped, the hole in the fuselage appeared. But Lozano was stuck. "I couldn't move," he said. The plane had crashed onto a steep wooded slope, a few feet from a home.

"It took a long time, maybe 30 minutes. Then the firemen came," he said. "There were big lights. They were trying to remove things."

"There was a lot of screaming and groaning around me. It took them half an hour—it seemed like an eternity. I was hoping people would help this little girl, she was 18 years old. She was screaming for her mother, please help my mother, she's stuck under the nose."

Looking up, "I saw people were being rescued on top of me. They took me out and put me on the ground. It was freeing."

"One of the men said, 'this guy is much better than the others.' I said, 'that's correct. As long as you don't forget me, you go and help the others.'"

"I laid there, counting my blessings. It was a miracle," Doctors told him his cracked back is not terribly serious, and he can move his arms and legs.

A Boeing spokesman said he also could not say whether the 22-year-old plane could have reached the airport.

Dickinson said the aircraft aborted a first attempt to land after a flight instrument indicated it was descending too quickly.

The instrument gave an audible warning: "Pull up, pull up." Dickinson said that as the jet was circling the airport to make another landing attempt, it reported it was low on fuel and two engines had stopped. In a matter of minutes, the plane crashed.

Dickinson said he could not confirm news reports that the plane was forced to circle for an hour over Norfolk, Virginia, and for an hour at Kennedy because of bad weather and flight congestion.

Asked about a report that the plane had gone in for maintenance 37 times in the last four months, he said: "It may be true but it may not mean anything. They could have just changed a tire."

The plane crashed and broke into four pieces about 15 miles (25 km) from Kennedy airport in fog and rain at 9:34 pm on Thursday (0234 GMT Friday).

The plane went down in Cove Neck, an exclusive community of lavish homes that sit on two-acre lots. The front lawn of the home of tennis star John McEnroe's parents was used as a makeshift morgue.

Only one of the nine crew members, a chief flight stewardess, survived the crash. Dickinson said he told police that there was no warning that the plane was going to crash, a claim borne out by passengers.

Officials said one of the passengers was believed to be smuggling cocaine hidden in his stomach into the United States, a fact that came to light during a routine X-ray before surgery.

Dickinson said engine experts inspected the remains of the crumpled craft and found "no evidence of rotation" on three of four engines, indicating they were not operating at the moment the plane hit ground.

He said that contrary to earlier reports that the plane had run out of fuel, the aircraft did have about 1,333 gallons (5,000 litres) of fuel in its tanks.

Asked whether that would be enough fuel for the plane to try a second approach to land, Dickinson said, "at this time, we don't know, but that is one thing that is under investigation."

He also said authorities are looking into whether the required amount of fuel for a trip from Bogota to New York was loaded on the plane in Colombia.

Federal investigators originally said they were working to determine the role of the plane's fuel level in the disaster and whether malfunctioning or misinterpreted gauges caused the plane to crash in the heavy fog.

In a recording of the conversation in the cockpit during the flight, air traffic controllers at Kennedy told the pilot to abort his first attempt to land because the plane was "sinking quickly," Dickinson said.

A veteran Avianca pilot told the Associated Press in Colombia that when the 707 gains altitude quickly after an aborted landing while low on fuel, engines can shut down because the forces generated push fuel to the back of the tanks.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said investigators told him the pilot of flight 52 notified the Kennedy tower that he was low on fuel.



The doomed Avianca plane lies among trees.

Cease-and-desist order sought against Bush's son in bank case

WASHINGTON, Jan 27, (UPI): The Office of Thrift Supervision said yesterday it will seek a cease-and-desist order against Neil Bush, son of President George Bush, stemming from an investigation of his involvement in the failure of Silverado Banking, Savings and Loan Association.

The announcement came after Neil Bush broke off negotiations with the agency's enforcement review committee. Neil Bush issued a statement late Thursday saying he would rather fight federal thrift regulators in court than negotiate any kind of settlement.

"In my view, a settlement agreement would leave an implication that I misbehaved as a director of Silverado," Neil Bush said.

"As I have said in the past, I have nothing to hide and I have done nothing wrong," Neil Bush said. "Therefore, I have refused to consent to any agreement with the office of thrift supervision, and if they choose to bring action against me, I will fight the matter in court."

The agency will seek a hearing before an administrative law judge into charges that will allege conflicts of interests while Bush was on the board of directors at Silverado.

The White House had no comment.

In a statement, the OTS said the order, if granted, "would direct Bush not to engage in actions that would constitute a conflict of interest should he ever again serve with a federally insured financial institution."

The hearing process could take up to a year to complete, the agency said.

The OTS is the new regulatory agency set up to police savings and loan institutions as part of the multibillion-dollar thrift industry bailout.

Bush, 34, has met with OTS investigators during the past two weeks. On Wednesday, the agency announced it had postponed a decision on Bush's fate for at least 10 days.

The conflict of interest questions concern Bush's dealings with Denver Real Estate developers Bill Walters and Kenneth Good, who invested in Bush's independent oil business, JNB Exploration, in 1983 and 1984.

Stolen from London hospital

Baby, mom reunited

LONDON, Jan 27, (Reuters): A baby stolen more than two weeks ago from a London hospital was reunited with her mother today after a police swoop on a secluded English cottage.

Police found baby Alexandra Griffiths unharmed in a rented cottage in the southern town of Burford and arrested a 35-year-old unemployed divorcee.

Local people had tipped off police after seeing artists' impressions of the abductor in newspapers. Residents said the woman had showed off the baby to neighbours as her own.

Mother Dawn Griffiths, 20, later cradled her baby at a news conference where she was almost speechless with joy and relief.

"I was overjoyed. I cannot express it in words," he said.

Alexandra was snatched from her mother's hospital bedside on January 11 by a woman posing as a health worker. The next day a woman telephoned the hospital to apologise for taking the infant, who was just 36 hours old.

Britain was gripped by the case. Newspapers gave prominent coverage to every development, including police leads suggesting the baby might have been taken to Scotland or Australia.

British Citizens

The British Embassy Consular Section reminds British citizens who are resident in Kuwait, and citizens of other Commonwealth countries without a Mission in Kuwait, that they should now renew their registrations at the Consulate for 1990. Renewals may be made by mail or telephone.

All registrations not renewed since January 1988 will be discarded. Those making a final departure from Kuwait in the coming year are requested to cancel their registration with the Consulate shortly before leaving, in order to assist accuracy of records.

British Embassy, Consular Section,
Arabian Gulf Street,
P.O. Box 2, 13001 Safat, Kuwait.
Telephone: 243-2046/7/8/9
Fax: 240-7395.

The Modern Airconditioning and Refrigeration Company requires the following maintenance staff:

1. HVAC: Foreman, mechanic, operator and boilers operator
2. ELECTRICAL: Foreman and electricians
3. PLUMBING: Foreman and plumber
4. GENERAL: General mechanic and diesel generator mechanic and helpers for all above trades

Applicants should deliver their applications to our head office in Salhiya at Ghazi Fahad Al Nafisi Building — mezzanine floor (beside Salhiya Complex)
Tel. No. 2439471.

We don't rest on our Laurels...



Two prestigious awards!!
the Ministry of Health's 1st Nutrition Week in 1988
and the European Gold Star for Quality in 1989.

The quest for quality continues



BOUSHAHRI & DA'ANA FOOD STUFF CO. W.L.L.

Tel: 4838740 - 4838713

DOVEX
Washington Apple

Del Monte
Philippine Fresh Bananas

unifrutti
Chilian Apple

ANTICO
Australian Produce

Senate hands Bush a victory on China

WASHINGTON, Jan 27, (Agencies): US President George Bush, savouring a major triumph over Congress, is claiming a mandate to deal with China "the way I feel is correct" despite widespread opposition to his policies from Democrats and Republicans alike.

Although Bush narrowly won on Thursday in a Senate vote on a bill protecting Chinese students, the victory shatters any pretence there is a national consensus on Sino-American policy.

His victory, it can be argued, is less

than it seems.

It came largely because he exercised his formidable strength as President, not because lawmakers embrace an approach to China many consider too sympathetic and forgiving.

Ultimately, 390 of 435 members of the House of Representatives and 62 of 100 senators voted against him.

Despite the fact that he successfully beat back a bill he did not want, Bush has been forced to implement all the provisions the legislation called for.

"Surprised you, didn't it?" Bush

exclaimed after the Senate, by a four-vote margin, upheld his veto of a politically popular bill protecting Chinese students from deportation.

Bush said the victory would "be helpful in reaching accommodation" with the Senate and House on other matters.

Senators voted 62-37 against Bush but the vote failed to meet the two-thirds margin needed for an override. The House had voted 390-25 a day earlier against the president.

In part, the issue was an election-year test of strength between a Republican

President and a Congress controlled by the opposition Democratic Party. However, it was not a strictly partisan battle since 145 Republicans in the House and eight in the Senate joined with Democrats in trying to override Bush.

While Bush emerged the winner, the votes provided a clear measure of congressional displeasure with his secret diplomacy with Beijing and his refusal to deal harshly following the crackdown against China's pro-democracy forces.

Sen William Cohen, a Republican, said the bill represented "America's symbol to the world that is struggling to throw off the chains of dictators."

Sen Slade Gorton, also a Republican, said that letting the veto stand sends "the signal that they can get away with what they have done and retain their power. And I think that's wrong."

Bush said he regarded the outcome as a mandate for his policies. "It gives me the confidence that I'm

going to go forward the way I think is correct here... and we're going to stay right on track," Bush said.

Defending the secrecy of his approach, Bush said, "I think the decisions I've made are good decisions. I can understand why there isn't unanimous endorsement," he said. "But I view it as a very good step."

Bush said the 40,000 Chinese students in the United States would be fully protected even without the legislation.

Japan to air debate prior to key polls

TOKYO, Jan 27, (AP): Leaders of Japan's five largest political parties tentatively agreed yesterday to hold a nationally televised debate prior to a key parliamentary election in February.

Officials of three major opposition parties said they had agreed to a proposal by Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, who heads the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, to participate in the broad discussion.

But the parties have not yet agreed on the time, theme or format for the debate, they said.

The Japan Communist Party in effect agreed to the proposal by releasing a similar call for a debate. "It is unacceptable not to clarify the positions of party leaders for the public," the party said in a written statement.

Those expected to participate include Kaifu, Socialist chairman Takako Doi, Komeito (Clean Government Party) chairman Koshiro Ishida, Eiichi Nagasue, chairman of the Democratic Socialist Party and Tetsuzo Fujiwara, chairman of the Japan Communist Party's president.

Kaifu reportedly proposed the debate because of widespread criticism of his decision to dissolve parliament's lower house for the election, prior to delivering a traditional policy speech.

He reportedly wanted to call an election after giving a major policy speech, but apparently the wishes of influential party leaders prevailed.

The Japan Socialist Party, Japan Communist Party, and major newspapers accused the Liberal Democrats of trying to avoid a confrontation over issues of tax policy and political reform during the question period that would have followed the prime minister's speech.

"Self-centred interest within political parties, both ruling and opposition, unprecedentedly overrode the basic principle of democracy when the House of Representatives was dissolved Wednesday without a policy speech," charged Manichie Shinshun, a major national newspaper.

"We want to ask each party and every candidate: this question: Where exactly do you stand on 'crucial' election issues?" demanded the Asahi, another national newspaper.

"We still insist that it is the responsibility of every political party to outline clearly its policy in a manner that voters can understand and appraise," it said.

Several political analysts accused other opposition parties of preventing Kaifu from giving a policy speech because they feared the charismatic and popular Doi would steal the scene.

In the election, expected for Feb 18, the Liberal Democrats, who have governed Japan continuously since 1955, could lose their majority in the lower house, which selects the prime minister.

They lost their majority for the first time in the less powerful upper house last July, when voters registered dissatisfaction over bribery and sex scandals and an unpopular sales tax.

Opposition parties, led by Socialist chairwoman Doi, now hold the majority in the upper house.

The ruling party has been struggling to restore its image since it was disclosed that many of its leaders had profited from sales of shares supplied by the information-services conglomerate Recruit Co., leading to charges of influence-peddling and the resignation of Yasuhiro Nakasone's successor as prime minister, Noboru Takeshita.

Kaifu replaced Takeshita's successor, Sosuke Uno, after Uno resigned to take responsibility for the Liberal Democrats' upper house defeat. Kaifu has promised to carry out anti-corruption reforms.

In their campaign, the opposition has campaigned for anti-corruption reforms in politics and for the abolition of an unpopular three per cent sales tax, forced through the parliament by the ruling party.

The Liberal Democrats have framed the election as a "choice between liberation and socialism."

Said an LDP statement: "Socialist and communist nations around the world are collapsing like an avalanche."

It added, "We decidedly cannot leave our country's politics to the care of opposition groups with the archaic, rigid thinking of the socialist revolution."

Televised campaign debates are new to Japan.

In 1986, when the opposition asked Prime Minister Nakasone to participate in a televised debate, the plans fell through because they would not agree to his demand to meet with them individually rather than collectively.

Bid to forestall another rebellion this year

China starts smile drive

BEIJING, Jan 27, (Reuters): China's leaders have scattered across the country, embarking on a year of the horse smile campaign to try to forestall another rebellion as anniversaries of last year's mass democracy protests approach.

Known in the ruling Communist Party as a "flesh and blood campaign," the old leadership is projecting a fresh image in the lunar new year which was launched with a blitz of fireworks earlier today.

In the build-up to the celebrations, traditionally the most important Chinese festival, top figures have gone on carefully orchestrated walkabouts, exhorting China's 1.1 billion people to unite under the party's leadership and work hard for the future.

The strident rhetoric adopted since the army put down pro-democracy demonstrations in Beijing's Tiananmen Square last June has been shunned.

Instead, the nationwide protests which rocked China and held the world spellbound for weeks are referred to as "last year's events" and the nation's serious economic problems are referred to as "temporary difficulties."

Senior leader Deng Xiaoping, at 85 officially in retirement but in reality still the driving force, made his first public appearance in 1990 in Shanghai yesterday.

Official newspapers showed pictures of Deng accompanied by 82-year-old President Yang Shangkun at a reception with local army and government leaders.

Qiao Shi, a senior politburo member and head of the country's security services, travelled to southern Canton.

In the capital, party leader Jiang Zemin and Premier Li Peng appeared at a gala festival broadcast to what is probably the world's biggest television audience of the year.

Looking relaxed and dressed in Western-style business suits, Jiang and Li greeted and chatted with performers on stage.

Jiang was just back from visiting a coal mine, an earthquake disaster zone, factories and army units in poor Shanxi province. Li, most remembered for declaring martial law in Beijing last May, had visited wealthier Jiangsu.

Speaking at the televised new year festival, Jiang made a call for "stable unity" and Li spoke of "our great socialist motherland."

Residents of Beijing say China's leadership has been badly shaken by the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe, especially by the swift fall and execution of Romania's Nicolae Ceausescu, an old ally of China.

Rumours abound in Beijing that Premier Li could be removed in early April when parliament meets for its annual session, to be replaced by someone untainted by the brutal killings of hundreds of demonstrators last June.

"Under the appearance of surface calm, there are certainly machinations going on," commented an Asian diplomat, adding that he expected the hardline Li to survive.

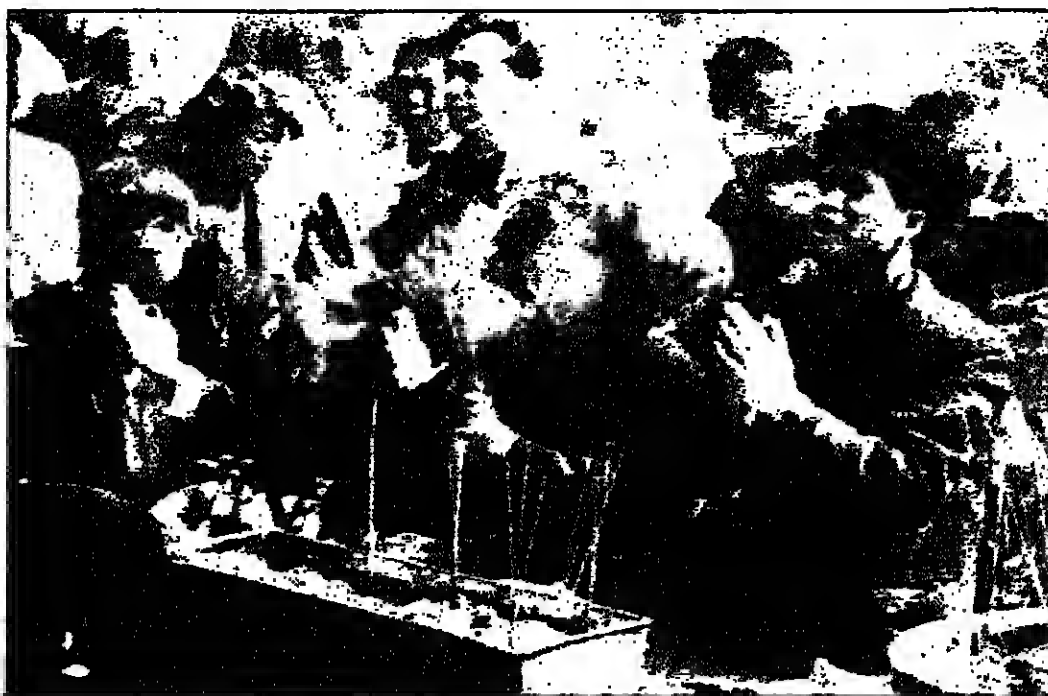
As part of the new image, the party lifted martial law in Beijing earlier this month — sent by diplomats as a largely cosmetic move — and announced the release of nearly 600 prisoners held after last year's demonstrations.

"Relax on the outside. Tighten on the inside," was how a dissident intellectual described recent events, citing new stricter regulations governing contact between Chinese and foreigners and stepped up police surveillance.

People and the government alike are well aware that crucial tests for the authorities lie ahead in the coming year, named the year of the horse in the Chinese calendar which ascribes a different animal label to each year in a 12-year cycle.

Mid-February sees the Ching Ming festival when Chinese honour the spirits of dead ancestors.

Residents hesitate to predict what will happen in the year of the horse but say any of these dates could trigger renewed protests.



Hong Kong residents pray with lighted incense, at the Wory Tai Sin temple during Chinese New Year celebrations. (Reuters wirephoto)

NEWS IN BRIEF

First case of bat rabies: The World Health Organisation (WHO) warned in Geneva that the first case of bat rabies has been diagnosed in France in which two people were bitten during daylight hours, on 11 September 1989.

The diagnosis of rabies was confirmed by isolation of the virus from cell culture and subsequent inoculation into suckling mice. It belongs to the "Lyssavirus" group isolated from bats in Europe.

WHO alerted that isolation of a rabies virus from a bat in France calls for certain precautions including "suspicion of rabies" in any bat exhibiting "aggressive or abnormal behaviour," in case of human infection, a rabies centre should be consulted at once, and any captured animals should be delivered to veterinary services. (Kuna)

8 to contest Comoros poll: Eight candidates, including interim head of state Mohamed Said Djohar, have registered for presidential elections next month in the Comoros islands to choose a successor to slain President Ahmed Abdallah.

Multi-candidate presidential polls — a rarity in Africa — were forced on the Comoros following the killing of mercenary-backed Abdallah on Nov 26.

After Abdallah's death his cabinet stayed on, led now by Djohar, the 70-year-old head of the supreme court who became interim president in accordance with the constitution.

Frenzied opposition parties failed to agree on a common presidential candidate and ended up with seven candidates by Thursday's registration deadline. (Reuters)

Meeting on Third World women: The potential role of women in the development of the poorest and weakest developing countries, most of which are in Africa, will be the subject of a high-level group of experts meeting which opens next Monday in Niamey, Niger.

Being convened by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad), the meeting is part of the preparatory process for the second United Nations conference on the least developed countries to be held in Paris from 3 to 14 Sept. 1990.

Ms. Moumouni Aissata, minister of social affairs and women's condition of Niger will be opening the meeting, which will include eminent persons from 15 LDCs and representatives of multilateral institutions and research centres. (Kuna)

Berlusconi alliance takes control: Media tycoon Silvio Berlusconi and the Mondadori-Fornetton families took firm control of Italy's biggest publishing group on Thursday, winning 13 out of 15 seats on the new board.

Berlusconi, who has been locked in battle with entrepreneur Carlo de Benedetti for control of Arnoldo Mondadori Editore Spa since early last month, announced at a news briefing he had been named Mondadori president by the board.

At the shareholders' meeting earlier in the day all the candidates put up by the Berlusconi-Fornetton-Mondadori alliance were elected to the board, along with two representatives of De Benedetti's industrial holding company, Compagnie Industriale Rumit Spa (CIR).

De Benedetti is chairman of the computer maker Ing. C. Olivetti E.C. Spa. (Reuters)

Producers held for payoff

Seoul TV scandal

SEOUL, Jan 27, (AP): Prosecutors said yesterday six producers of television entertainment programmes were charged with receiving up to US \$80,000 from singers seeking TV appearances.

Of 16 producers questioned on payoff charges, the prosecutors said six were formally charged and 10 still under investigation. Three others are wanted on similar charges, they said.

The producers from the nation's two television networks, KBS and MBC, were accused of receiving regular kickbacks from popular singers by controlling their TV appearances.

Prosecutors said many television and radio producers have received money from singers and other entertainers who want TV appearances to preserve their popularity. Some producers have fabricated rankings of popular singers, they said.

The prosecutors did not say how many entertainers were involved in the scandal, but Joong-Ang daily news, a new-paper in Seoul, named dozens of popular singers.

A rookie singer has to pay about US \$1,400 to make a single appearance on television, said Yonhap, the South Korean News Agency.

Indonesia floods, landslide toll 100

JAKARTA, Jan 27, (UPI): Heavy rains continued falling today in central Java as the death toll across Indonesia peaked 100 in the region's worst flooding in at least 20 years, authorities said.

The flooding, triggered by a prolonged downpour, began shortly after midnight yesterday and caused the river of Bangk Kana to overflow into several parts of the city of Semarang, about 250 miles (400 km) east of Jakarta.

The torrential rains also caused landslides in several districts, including one believed to have buried 31 people alive in Tembung district, about 50 miles (80 km) south of Semarang.

Out of the 35 people living in the landslide area, only four people were known to have survived and two of those were seriously injured, the daily newspaper Suara Pembaruan reported.

"Nobody was able to save their life because they were asleep when the tragedy occurred," an official told the newspaper.

Other deaths and missing people were reported in Kendal and Batang districts and in Indonesia's eastern province of Irian Jaya, officials said.

The overall death toll in floods and landslides reached 98 with 38 others missing and feared dead by Sunday morning, government officials in Semarang said by telephone.

The toll included victims of a separate landslide yesterday in Uluwatu, about 2,500 miles (4,000 km) east of Jakarta, that killed nine people and seriously injured 15 others.

Some government officials said that by yesterday the flooding was the worst to hit Semarang in 20 years, while others called it the worst ever.

Fearing rains continued to fall today, prompting fears of more severe flooding in the city's densely populated low-lying areas, officials said.

Several bodies were found by rescue workers caught on the ceiling of houses and in trees, one official said. Rescue teams battling bad weather and mountainous terrain resumed their search today for a domestic airliner with 19 people aboard missing in Eastern Indonesia, officials said.

The British-made twin-propelled plane belonging to Indonesia's Airfast charter airline disappeared Thursday while on a scheduled two-hour flight from Lampung in south Sumatra to Selaparang airport in Lombok island.

Moro fighters attack villages

5,000 flee Cotabato as clashes continue

COTABATO, Philippines, Jan 27, (AP): About 1,000 suspected Muslim rebels attacked six southern villages today, triggering sporadic clashes with defenders that sent 5,000 villagers fleeing, the military said.

Brig. Gen. Orlando Soriano, the army regional commander, said the attacks all began at 1 am (1700 GMT yesterday) in villages in north Cotabato province, about 945 kilometres (590 miles) southeast of Manila.

He said at least one woman villager died in a crossfire and that an undetermined number of villagers, soldiers and rebels were killed or wounded.

Fighting was reported to be continuing in the Christian-dominated villages of Ginitanlan, Slik, Pamallan, Ladingan and Panicipan between government forces and suspected rebels of the Moro National Liberation Front.

Soriano said the attackers burned several homes. Government troops backed by two helicopter gunships and mortar fire responded by attacking several suspected hiding places of the insurgents, the military leader added.

Soriano said the motive for the attacks was still under investigation.

Earlier today, suspected communist rebels shot a member of the presidential guard in suburban Manila, then ran his body over before fleeing, police said.

Sgt Sadiri Cadsap, a 39-year-old member of President Corazon Aquino's guard force, died of multiple gunshot wounds, said police investigator Michael Tambawan.

Tambawan said the soldier was attacked by three gunmen earlier today on a busy avenue and that suspicion fell to the communist New People's Army.

He said the killers had stalked the soldier, shooting him several times in the head and back with handguns.

One of the gunmen flagged down a passenger jeep, ordered the driver and his wife to get out, then drove over Cadsap's body and dragged it for about 100 metres (yards) before they fled in the vehicle, Tambawan added.

The jeep was recovered in the northern suburb of Quezon City, he added.

In Pampanga province, government troops captured the deputy communist army provincial commander during a dawn raid today on his lair in Arayat town, said Lt Col Efren Fernandez, a Philippine constabulary official.

Arayat is about 65 kilometres (40 miles) north of Manila. Fernandez said Antonio Calma, 34, alias "Commander Andy," confessed during interrogation to the Jan 5 killing of Javier Hizon, mayor of the nearby town of Mexico, and his bodyguard.

Communist rebels today claimed responsibility for Thursday's bombing of the United States information service office in Davao, calling it "muscle-flexing" in preparation for more attacks.

Some 300 militant students, shouting "dismantle the US military bases" marched to the US embassy yesterday and urged President Corazon Aquino to overhaul her panel for upcoming exploratory talks on the future of the facilities.

The protesters, who carried cardboard effigies of Uncle Sam pulling Aquino like a puppet, also warned against "direct US intervention" in the country should the bases and their business interests be threatened.

Thirty anti-riot police blocked the demonstrators, who chanted "bases, bases, pests, pests," while staging the rally in front of the embassy's main gate. The students dispersed peacefully after one hour.

"We urge President Aquino to change the government panel headed by Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus with nationalist negotiators who can articulate the genuine sentiments of the Filipino people," youth leader Nathaniel Santiago told the crowd.



Filipino Army Corporal Edison Balara, 26, is being questioned at Manila police headquarters Jan 24 after he was found carrying 16 home-made guns. (Reuters wirephoto)

Democracy

Aquino warns of pitfalls

MANILA, Jan 27, (AP): President Corazon Aquino, whose tenure in office has been marked by coup attempts and insurgency, warned Eastern Europeans yesterday that the road to democracy is "strewn with pitfalls."

Speaking during a luncheon for a visiting European Economic Community official, Aquino said she welcomed the "readiness" of Western nations to support Eastern Europe, but expressed guarded confidence this will not be at the expense of their allies.

"Eastern Europe will need all the help, because — and I speak with the authority of experience — the road back to democracy is strewn with pitfalls," Aquino said during a luncheon for Abel Matutes, EEC commissioner for Asia.

Aquino took power after the "people power" popular uprising in February 1986 drove the late President Ferdinand Marcos into exile in Hawaii.

The 19,000-strong communist New People's Army, which grew rapidly under Marcos, continues to threaten the Aquino government and is considered by the military as the most serious long-term security threat.

"It is a political paradox of our time that, just when Eastern Europe has followed our example of 'people power,' rear-guard regressive action of mercenary ambition would attempt to snuff our Philippine democracy," Aquino said.

About 3,000 mutinous troops took part in the Dec 1-9 coup attempt, the sixth and most serious led by right-wing military officers to oust her. At least 113 people died and more than 500 were wounded in the fighting.

"The new leaders of Eastern Europe know that democracy does not bake the bread," Aquino said. "People can be mesmerised to think that democracy by itself solves problems and delivers the cornucopia."

She said failure to meet the people's "unbounded expectations" would mean "that the forces of the right and of the left, which lurk in the corner are sure to be the inheritors."

60 troops killed, thousands of civilians flee as Burmese seize rebel bases

MAE SOT, Thailand, Jan 27, (AP): About 60 soldiers were killed and 25 injured in five days of fighting during which Burmese troops overran one Karen rebel base and part of another, border police said yesterday.

About 1,500 Burmese began attacking the Karen bases of the Ba Bow and nearby Maeng Ka Ra last Saturday, the police sources said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

They captured Maeng Ka Ra and part the Ba Bow, just two kilometres away, on Wednesday,

police said. Both camps are close to Thailand's northwestern border, about 40 kilometres (25 miles) south of the town of Mae Sot.

About 30 soldiers on each side were reported killed and 20 Burmese and five Karens wounded, the police said.

Fighting has raged in the surrounding area since Jan 17 and has sent some 5,000 Karen civilians fleeing across the Thai border. Thai villagers living on the frontier also have been forced to move to escape the fighting, the sources said.

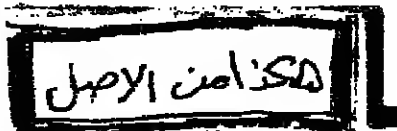
A further 5,000 people, Thai labourers who worked in timber sawmills owned by Karens, fled across the border too, they said. As the Karens retreated they burnt down 17 of these mills to prevent them from falling into government hands, the police said.

The Karens are one of the largest of the diverse ethnic groups fighting the Burmese government. They have resisted the integration of the Karen state into the union of Burma since Rangoon gained independence from Britain in 1948.

Both the Ba Bow and Maeng Ka Ra were camps where Burmese students fought alongside the rebels after fleeing the brutal suppression of a pro-democracy movement in their homeland in 1988.

About 200 students from Maeng Ka Ra crossed into Thailand as government troops overran the camp. They said it was attacked by about 700 of their countrymen.

Government forces have seized a stretch of about a 60 kilometres (39 miles) of Karen territory south of the town of Mae Sot since Jan 17, Police said.



Former politburo member held

Honecker aides involved in illegal drug trade

EAST BERLIN, Jan 27, (Agencies): Former East German politburo member Joachim Herrmann has been arrested on suspicion of high treason in connection with his running of the state media, the official ADN news agency reported today.

His arrest was the latest in a series of moves against many of East Germany's former hardline communist rulers, ousted last November.

ADN also quoted the public prosecutor's office as saying an arrest warrant had been issued for the former chairman of the State Planning Commission, Gerhard Schurer. He was suspected of "criminal abuse of trust".

ADN quoted the prosecutor's office as saying that Herrmann, in charge of media policy under disgraced Stalinist leader Erich Honecker, was being investigated in connection with his responsibility for

the former anti-constitutional media policy.

The Communist Party exercised draconian control over all East German media until the Honecker leadership was ousted by a mass pro-democracy movement.

Herrmann and Schurer were among a dozen members of the former politburo expelled from the party last weekend for suspected misuse, corruption and fraud.

Many former top communist officials, including Honecker, are under criminal investigation and some are in jail.

Top lieutenants of Honecker permitted drug shipments through East Berlin's Schoenefeld airport to earn Western currency, a major West German newspaper said yesterday.

Citing sources in the current East German government, the Die Welt newspaper

said those involved in the shipments included former foreign trade state secretary Alexander Schalck-Golodkowski, now believed to be hiding in a foreign country.

According to the report, Schoenefeld airport was a central transfer point for drugs.

Some members of Honecker's now-disgraced government took part in the drug trade while others tolerated it, said the Bonn-based newspaper.

Schurer, with former politburo member Guenter Mittag, oversaw East Germany's rigidly centralised economy. Stalinist bureaucratic controls on the economy have been blamed by the current reformist coalition government for massive problems.

Mittag is already in jail, suspected of personal enrichment with public funds and

of criminal mismanagement of the economy.

ADN said on Thursday that former defence minister Heinz Kessler had been arrested on accusations of misusing his position to commit unspecified crimes.

No details were given but the official media have accused him of using air force planes for private jaunts and building luxury homes with public funds — part of a pervasive pattern of high-level corruption exposed since the old order crumbled.

Justice Minister Kurt Wuschke said on Wednesday that the first formal charges against East Germany's former rulers would be laid next month.

The East German Communist Party leadership has agreed to drop its traditional name to break more emphatically with its discredited Stalinist past, the party newspaper said today.



Mandela release runs into a hitch

CAPE TOWN, Jan 27, (Reuters): Plans for the early release of jailed black nationalist Nelson Mandela have run into problems, his wife said today after paying him a four-hour visit.

"It is quite clear that some problems have cropped up about his immediate release," Winnie Mandela said, without disclosing what the problems were.

South African President F.W. de Klerk has promised to free Mandela, 71, from his life sentence for plotting to overthrow white rule. Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee said this week his release was "just a matter of time".

Mrs Mandela looked sombre as she left the Victor Verster prison about 60 km (40 miles) northeast of Cape Town, where her husband is held in a former warder's house surrounded by guard towers and a high brick wall.

Her mood was in sharp contrast to her high spirits when she left the prison on Jan 8 and told reporters his release was imminent.

"I don't think we are talking about months any longer," she said then.

Today, however, she said Mandela appeared depressed and she was clearly less optimistic about an early end to his 26-year prison ordeal.

"I did not find him as happy as he was the last time... it is quite clear there are a lot of hurdles along the way," she said.

Winnie said she could not reveal the nature of the problems that had arisen but added her husband was growing impatient for his freedom.

"In his own words, he said: I want to come home and if I could I would be going home with you," she said.

She said he asked her to continue with preparations for his release which he set in motion at their last meeting.

Government and activist sources have predicted that Mandela could be freed in the last two weeks of February in conjunction with moves by De Klerk to improve the climate for negotiations on a shared future for blacks and whites.

Mandela and his outlawed African National Congress (ANC) have set minimum conditions for talks his release, the lifting of a three-year-old state of emergency, legalisation of the ANC and other opposition groups and the release of political prisoners.

Government sources have said De Klerk is willing to meet those conditions slowly, beginning with an announcement next Friday of first steps to improve relations with the country's black majority.

Meanwhile, South Africa's most powerful right-wing politician demanded yesterday the government halt its consultations with Nelson Mandela, saying the jailed black leader's goal was "white surrender".

Andries Treurnicht, leader of the pro-apartheid Conservative Party, said the government was "making a myth of a man who had been found guilty of a crime similar to high treason".

Treurnicht, whose party won 31 per cent of the white vote in general elections last year, said the consultations implied that Mandela "has a claim to the government of this country".

"What Mandela and the ANC demand is the transfer of power to the so-called majority," Treurnicht said. "If such a situation should not come about, they threaten violence."

The ANC "demands white surrender," Treurnicht said. "It must be clearly understood that the white people will under no circumstances negotiate its own demise."

On Thursday, South newspaper, an anti-apartheid weekly in Cape Town, published a policy document written by Mandela urging negotiations between the government and the ANC.

Mandela, in a statement released Friday, said he wrote the document early last year, handed it to a team of government officials, and informed the ANC of it. He denied news reports that he had presented the document to then-president P.W. Botha when they met in July or to President De Klerk when they met in December.

US will shut 2 bases in Greece

ATHENS, Jan 27, (AP): The United States will close two of its four major military installations in Greece, political party leaders said yesterday.

The decision came after leaders of the three parties that support the coalition government met with Premier Kostas Karamanlis.

Constantine Mitsotakis, who heads the conservative New Democracy grouping, confirmed a report by the newspaper Ethnos that US envoy to Athens Michael Sotiriou had advised the Greeks Thursday of the US decision to shut the bases.

Panellenic Socialist Movement leader Andreas Papandreu told reporters that Zolotas had discussed the US advisory at their meeting.

Communist Party chief Harilaos Florakis told reporters that if the bases were closed it would be a "significant development".

The Ethnos report said that Sotiriou passed on a letter from US Defence Secretary Richard Cheney to his Greek counterpart Tzannis Tzannetakis. The letter advised that Hellenikon Airbase, which is adjacent to Athens International Airport, and the US Navy communications station at Velestina, 33 kilometres (22 miles) southeast of the capital, would be removed.

The closure of the bases here is considered part of the US Pentagon's plan to shut down dozens of military installations in the United States and abroad. Cheney is scheduled to present the Pentagon's defence budget proposal on Monday in Washington.

This would leave two other major military installations in Greece: a US Air Force communications monitoring post and a refuelling base for the navy's 6th Fleet — both located on the island of Crete.

The Hellenikon Airbase, which is used by reconnaissance aircraft to shadow Soviet fleet movements in the Mediterranean, is also a support unit for US bases in Turkey.

The Nea Makri station monitors telephone and telefax traffic in the Mediterranean.

In addition to the four major installations, there are 20 small US radar and communications stations spread throughout the country.

The bases were established in Greece through a defence and co-operation agreement initiated in the mid-1950s which also granted Greece \$350 million annually through military assistance programmes.

A five-year agreement covering the bases expired in December 1988. It gave the US 17 months to dismantle the bases if no new accord were reached.

President George Bush will increase US aid to about \$4.8 billion in the military budget for fiscal 1991, congressional sources said Thursday.

That would be about a billion dollars more than the US Congress, which is controlled by the opposition Democratic Party, approved last year for research and development of the anti-missile defence system, formally called the strategic defence initiative.

The proposal is virtually certain to come under attack, given the general climate of diminishing Soviet threat to the West, as well as increasing budget constraints.

Bush will unveil his proposed budget Monday, spelling out the details in his State of the Union speech Wednesday.

Belgium plans to withdraw its 25,000 troops from West Germany and has formally asked NATO to stop assisting Belgium raise its annual defence budget by 5 per cent, Defence Minister Guy Coenighe told two newspapers.

In interviews published Thursday in two respected dailies, Coenighe said that, given the thaw in East-West relations, it is no longer "realistic" for Belgium to have troops stationed in neighbouring West Germany.

"The way the situation in Europe is now evolving, the withdrawal of Belgian troops from Germany becomes likely," he told De Standard.

"I have asked the chiefs of staff to develop several scenarios for the withdrawal," said Coenighe who begins a five-day official visit to Moscow today.

In an interview with the daily Le Soir, Coenighe said: "We are moving from the era of (East-West) confrontation to that of collaboration, of mutual respect."

Ceausescu aides confess to genocide

Vice president quits

BUCHAREST, Jan 27, (Agencies): Four top aides of former Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu have confessed they were guilty of complicity to commit genocide, a lawyer told a military court today.

Former deputy prime minister Ion Dinca, former interior minister Tudor Postelnicu, Communist Party organisational chief Emil Bobu and former vice president Manea Marescu, were the first senior Ceausescu administration officials to go on trial.

A lawyer who read out the charges to the court said the four had confessed to all charges, but they did not formally plead in court.

If convicted of the trump charge of complicity in genocide they could be sentenced to life imprisonment following this month's controversial abolition of the death penalty by the ruling National Salvation Front.

They were not immediately asked to enter pleas to the indictment which said that in the days before Ceausescu was overthrown on December 22, all four vowed they would fight alongside him to the last.

Romania's vice president and a government minister resigned yesterday, dealing a blow to stability on the eve of talks on the country's political future and the trial of leading members of the former regime.

The ruling National Salvation Front (NSF) also passed its second public order decree in two days prescribing stiff penalties for assaults on police or security forces.

The Front will meet the country's 19 proliferating political parties for talks of its proposed electoral law for polls called for May 20.

Unconfirmed reports say its proposals for a popularly elected president and a bicameral parliament are acceptable. But the parties are more concerned about the Front's decision to contest the election as a political party.

The National Peasants' Party, probably the country's largest, accused the Front of embarking "on a path that will bring back to Romania a Marxist, totalitarian regime" and said it would walk out of today's talks.

Vice President Dumitru Mazilu, once a senior official under Ceausescu but later his bitter opponent, became the first key member of the Front's central executive bureau to resign.

Like the political parties, he expressed concern over the Front's tendency to regard itself as the sole political heir of Ceausescu.

"It is with deep pain and profound bitterness that I have noticed the Stalinist methods and practices are still being maintained," he said in a statement.

Earlier yesterday Foreign Trade Minister Nicolae M. Nicolae also resigned, citing health reasons.

But Romanian sources believed he was forced to quit after protests by military staff complaining about his close association with Ceausescu.

Late yesterday evening, the Front announced another step to assert its control, proclaiming severe penalties for those who verbally or physically assaulted police or security forces.

Ceausescu and his wife Elena were buried in a still-secret Bucharest location after their execution by firing squad last month, the country's vice premier said yesterday on French television.

Romania's ex-king Michael says his country is in a political void and time is not yet ripe to return to the throne he lost 42 years ago.

Defend, don't kill

A Soviet woman demonstrator holds up a sign saying the Army should defend people and not kill them outside the Defence Ministry in Moscow. A group of people belonging to the National Front, a nationalist Russian group demonstrated against the Soviet intervention in Azerbaijan. (Plauter wirephoto)

Call for union of Central Europe

Havel visits Hungary

BUDAPEST, Jan 27, (AP): President Vaclav Havel of Czechoslovakia called yesterday for Central European nations recently freed from communist domination to join together in an informal market-oriented, democratic union.

"It is clear that our countries, which only recently were Soviet satellites, are now seeking the path to democracy and to rejoining Europe," Havel told reporters at the end of a one-day visit.

"It only stands to reason we should see about co-ordinating our moves."

Havel announced plans to organise an April meeting of government and opposition leaders from Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia to discuss the idea. He said the foreign ministers of Austria, Italy and Yugoslavia would also be invited to attend the conference in the Slovak capital of Bratislava.

"The purpose would be to discuss not only the possibilities of our return to Europe but also the sort of Europe we want to return to," Havel, who was his country's best-known dissident before communist rule crumbled last month in Czechoslovakia.

Havel did not disclose precise areas of planned co-operation among the three countries, and said any co-ordination of policies would not come at the expense of planned projects with other nations.

He said Prague has accepted Hungarian interim President Matyas Szuscs's invitation to link certain policies with Austria, Hungary, Italy and Yugoslavia.

Havel's trip followed a Thursday visit to Warsaw during which he first broached the idea of Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary working in union to reintegrate themselves in Europe as politically independent states.

During a brief address to Parliament, Havel expressed the hope that "the Prague Parliament, too, will soon be a real Parliament, with a strong and intelligent opposition sitting across from me in the chamber."

LISBON, Jan 27, (Reuters): Angolan rebel leader Jonas Savimbi began a landmark visit to Portugal amid tight security today and announced he would meet President Mario Soares.

Riot police and plainclothes security men kept a close watch on several hundred cheering supporters who braved blustery winds and rain squalls at Lisbon airport.

Savimbi, making his first visit for 15 years to Angola's former colonial ruler, was driven away in a bulletproof car brought in from France. Police with automatic rifles watched the airport perimeter.

Savimbi is seeking to mobilise support for his National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) movement among Portugal's large expatriate Angolan community.

The trip also underlines his increased diplomatic stature following his face-to-face meeting with the leader of the Marxist Angolan government, President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos, last June.

The British Broadcasting Corporation meanwhile reported that heavy fighting was raging between Angolan government and Unita forces around the rebels' southern stronghold of Mavinga.

Polish party is over, no tears

WARSAW, Jan 27, (AP): Communists gathered today to dismantle their old ruling party and replace it with a new organisation, which party chief Mieczyslaw F. Rakowski said should be run by "a new generation" of leaders.

Rakowski pulled himself today from the running for head of the new party, which would replace the old organisation that lost power to the Solidarity movement after a disastrous defeat in Poland's first free elections since World War II.

The weekend congress planned to expunge the party of its communist ideology, endorse parliamentary democracy and found a new party of the left.

The party, formally known as the Polish United Workers Party, hopes its new incarnation will become the main left-wing party in a new democratic political spectrum.

"I consider it appropriate to pass over the helm to a new generation," Rakowski said at the end of an hour-long speech reviewing the party's past and the future.

"I personally am not going to run for leadership of the party and I think that comrades of my generation will not do so."

More than 1,600 delegates gathered at Congress Hall in Warsaw's imposing Stalinist-era palace of culture and science for the party congress, expected to be the last under the name of communists.

The headline today in the party's Trybuna Ludu paper said: "Bidding farewell to the PZWP."

Rakowski, 65, had said in early January that he would run for leadership of a reconstituted party. But he appeared to be reconsidering this week in the face of opposition from those who argue the new party stands no chance unless it introduces an entirely new leadership.

Another prominent candidate was parliament deputy Tadeusz Fiszbach, 54, who had the support of Lech Walesa, leader of the Solidarity trade union movement, and the Communist Party's delegation in Parliament.

Fiszbach is a former Gdansk party chief ousted from official positions in the 1980s because he opposed the 1981 imposition of martial law.

About 1,600 delegates are attending the party congress, which is to last until Monday at least. The party now claims 2 million members, but the party that emerges from the congress will be much smaller, party politburo member Janusz Reykowski said Thursday.

Solidarity Members of Parliament have asked the Polish government to dissolve the security police and seize all its documents and records, the official news agency PAP said today.

It said the deputies adopted a resolution on Friday saying the SB security service, set up by the former communist authorities to wipe out opposition and dissent, threatened social and political stability in Poland.

The Parliament rejected a bill on Friday to confiscate property worth tens of millions of dollars from the Communist Party after the Solidarity-led government refused to back the measure.



Unchain Albania

Greek demonstrators hurled eggs at visiting senior Albanian Foreign Ministry official on Friday and called for the overthrow of his hardline communist government.

Half a dozen eggs, thrown by people in a 100-strong crowd outside the Greek Foreign Ministry, hit bodyguards of Albanian Foreign Undersecretary Sokrat Plaka as he was whisked inside for talks.

Protesters chanted "Down with the Albanian regime" and carried banners calling for the overthrow of the government of communist strongman Ramiz Alia.

Plaka is on an official visit to smooth relations after recent sharp diplomatic exchanges between the two neighbouring countries over the late of some 400,000 ethnic Greeks in Albania. He returns home today.

Plaka was due to meet Foreign Minister Antonis Samaras, who set off the row in December by calling for religious freedom for the Greek minority in Albania, and for human rights in the last hardline pro-Stalinist state in Europe.

Picture top shows two Albanian relatives chained outside Albanian embassy protesting against the communist government and Plaka's visit. (Bottom): a police officer trying to stop an Albanian refugee as he attempts to enter the Greek Foreign Ministry Jan 26 (Reuters wirephoto)

Czechoslovakia denies coup: Czechoslovakia's Interior Minister Richard Sacher on Friday denied that security forces and ousted communists are planning a coup d'etat.

"I think it is a provocation aimed at arousing public opinion," Sacher said in an interview with Rude Pravo, the Communist Party daily.

He was referring to a Prague Radio report Thursday from Civic Forum, the loosely shaped opposition group, that a coup d'etat by communist security forces was rumoured for the end of January or beginning of February.

Czechoslovak Army officers, 85 to 86 per cent of whom are communist Party members, should be able to stop the army from intervening in the putsch during the first 12 to 24 hours, which should be enough to take over power," the radio report said, according to Rude Pravo.

In another move apparently aimed at the watchdog body, Sacher suspended all gun permits as of Feb 2 and ordered registering of all firearms held privately around the country.

Milan Kuzak, actor and advisor to Czechoslovakia's President Vaclav Havel, was quoted by the Austrian Neue Kronen daily Wednesday as saying the STB is still feared. "These men and women keep on working under an unknown leadership. We are spied upon and threatened," he said, without elaborating. (AP)

Communist Party approves platform: The ruling Communist Party has approved a platform for next week's party congress that commits it to pluralism and social democracy, the state BTA news agency said Friday.

The platform was approved at a surprise meeting of the party's policy-setting central committee Thursday night. The communists have been Bulgaria's sole rulers since the late 1940s.

The meeting was hurriedly called after days of labour unrest and stormy scenes in parliament, where conservative communists have called for an end to attacks on the party.

BTA said that at the Central Committee meeting, 20 members spoke and heard a concluding speech from party leader Petar Mladenov, the former foreign minister who took over from long-time leader Todor Zhivkov last Nov 10.

Zhivkov, 78, was arrested last week for abuse of power. His trial date has not been announced.

Mladenov, in an article written for the Communist Party weekly Savremennost Pokazatel and cited by BTA, urged that the congress diverge from past practice of unity at all costs and introduce democratic decision making. (AP)

Kosovo demonstrators shoot at police: Scattered work stoppages occurred in the restive Kosovo province yesterday in response to a general strike call, and police intervened to prevent hundreds of ethnic Albanians from staging demonstrations.

The state-run Belgrade Television said that during the attempted demonstration in the Kosovo town of Pec, some 50 km (31 miles) west of Pristina, the protesters "shot with guns in the direction" of the police. The report, which could not be independently confirmed, did not say if anybody was injured in the alleged shooting.

Meanwhile, human rights and opposition groups in Yugoslavia's Kosovo province called for political solutions instead of violence yesterday after a week of ethnic Albanian unrest.

Shots were exchanged between rioters and police in the towns of Pec and Titova Mitrovica on Friday and ethnic Albanians took to the streets demanding the resignation of local communist leaders, free elections and the release of political prisoners.

Newly-founded human rights and opposition groups said in a statement yesterday that street protests were detrimental to democratic processes taking place in Kosovo. (Agencies)

Unita leader begins key Portugal visit as fighting rages on in Angola

LISBON, Jan 27, (Reuters): Angolan rebel leader Jonas Savimbi began a landmark visit to Portugal amid tight security today and announced he would meet President Mario Soares.

Riot police and plainclothes security men kept a close watch on several hundred cheering supporters who braved blustery winds and rain squalls at Lisbon airport.

Savimbi, making his first visit for 15 years to Angola's former colonial ruler, was driven away in a bulletproof car brought in from France. Police with automatic rifles watched the airport perimeter.

Savimbi is seeking to mobilise support for his National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) movement among Portugal's large expatriate Angolan community.

The trip also underlines his increased diplomatic stature following his face-to-face meeting with the leader of the Marxist Angolan government, President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos, last June.

The British Broadcasting Corporation meanwhile reported that heavy fighting was raging between Angolan government and Unita forces around the rebels' southern stronghold of Mavinga.

As of yesterday there has been no let-up in the fighting, with both sides exchanging intense artillery fire from dawn each day until late into the night.

BBC correspondent Julian Borger reported after a visit to the battle front.

Borger said government Soviet-built MiG fighters dropped bombs behind Unita lines during his visit earlier this week and quoted rebel leaders as saying government tanks were massing to attempt a breakthrough.

Unita had deployed an extensive range of artillery in preparation for such an attack, he said.

Unita had said this week that a government offensive had bogged down and troops were short of food and fuel.

The Cuban-backed government in Luanda has denied launching an offensive and says it is acting only defensively. But Unita describes it as the biggest conventional operation of the 15-year civil war, involving 10,000 men and hundreds of tanks, armoured vehicles, planes and helicopters.

Borger said Unita forces at Mavinga repeated allegations that government troops had used chemical weapons against them.

Unita had said this week that a government offensive had bogged down and troops were short of food and fuel.

The Cuban-backed government in Luanda has denied launching an offensive and says it is acting only defensively. But Unita describes it as the biggest conventional operation of the 15-year civil war, involving 10,000 men and hundreds of tanks, armoured vehicles, planes and helicopters.

Borger said Unita forces at Mavinga repeated allegations that government troops had used chemical weapons against them.

Unita had said this week that a government offensive had bogged down and troops were short of food and fuel.

The Cuban-backed government in Luanda has denied launching an offensive and says it is acting only defensively. But Unita describes it as the biggest conventional operation of the 15-year civil war, involving 10,000 men and hundreds of tanks, armoured vehicles, planes and helicopters.

Borger said Unita forces at Mavinga repeated allegations that government troops had used chemical weapons against them.

Unita had said this week that a government offensive had bogged down and troops were short of food and fuel.

The Cuban-backed government in Luanda has denied launching an offensive and says it is acting only defensively. But Unita describes it as the biggest conventional operation of the 15-year civil war, involving 10,000 men and hundreds of tanks, armoured vehicles, planes and helicopters.

Borger said Unita forces at Mavinga repeated allegations that government troops had used chemical weapons against them.

Psychiatric test for high-risk drivers proposed

Accidents an innate tendency: specialist

By Diana Abou Halder
Arab Times staff

ALL APPLICANTS for a Kuwaiti driver's license should undergo a psychiatric examination, according to Dr. Aboel-Mughaisseeb of the Psychiatric Hospital.

On the last day of the Psychiatry Update Symposium, AL Mughaisseeb told fellow psychiatrists that he believes traffic accidents are more of an innate tendency than a chance event.

"The test is the best method for the detecting high risk drivers," he said. Mughaisseeb explained that the proposed short test administered by a psychiatrist will detect aggressive behaviour, sub-

stance abuse, social deviation, hyperactivity and low attention span, all of which are main causes of accidents.

Mughaisseeb's recommendation is based on a study done at the hospital on 200 young Kuwaiti males under 18 years of age who applied for licenses. "They were psychiatrically assessed and their traffic records were followed up for three years. Thirty-seven of them were diagnosed as psychiatrically disturbed. It was established that the accident rate among the disturbed group was significantly higher than that among the normal one," he explained.

"But there is a drawback to the study," Mughaisseeb added. "Some of these personality traits may change or disappear.

This is why a follow-up study must be conducted."

The psychiatrist stated that the cost of treating an accident patient is KD40 a day and that 20,000 traffic accidents a year happen in Kuwait.

Changes

In another paper discussed at the symposium, Dr. Gamal Al Gorashi, also from the Psychiatric Hospital, said that women who are left behind while their husbands work abroad are more susceptible to mood and behavioral changes.

Gorashi studied the behaviour of 102 wives in the Gezira area of Sudan. The women's husbands were working mostly in the Gulf countries and only went home

once every one or two years.

"Fourteen wives suffered from depression and needed medical attention," said Gorashi. He added that they were all young, unemployed, lived in a rented house or with in-laws and their mothers were not alive.

Comments such as "He comes like a guest and doesn't want to do anything," "Money does not discipline children," and "His children need him more," were common among most of them.

According to Gorashi, Sudan has 2 million workers abroad, only 25 per cent of them have their families with them.

He is planning a future study on the effect the absence of father on children and another on men in host countries.

Consent of relatives imperative in transplants

DR MUSTAFA AL ARJAWI, from the Faculty of Sharia of Kuwait University said that transplanting of organs for needy patients are allowed in Islam if it is life-saving.

Speaking at a seminar at the Journalists Society on the ethics of transplanting organs, said that normally taking organs from a dead body is prohibited in Islam, but is permissible if the organ will save the life of another human.

However, such organs should be donated free of charge and should be carried out under the supervision of a qualified doctor. Further, such donations should cause no harm to the donor. A pre-requisite of transferring organs from the deceased is the prior consent of the deceased or the consent of the relative.

Meanwhile, Dr. Mohammed Al Musawi, a kidney specialist at Udaibiya Kidney Centre said that the trend to transplant organs is gaining world-wide recognition and acceptance level is continually on the rise.

He added that presently organs that are being transplanted are the heart, lungs, kidneys, liver, pancreas, bone marrow and the cornea. Patients suffering from kidney problems gain relief by undergoing dialysis. However, this is only a stop gap and in the final analysis, a kidney transplant is essential.

About 100 to 150 patients suffer from kidney failure in Kuwait every year. Unfortunately, only half this number are successful in obtaining transplants, due to the shortage of donors.

Others who are on dialysis, might suffer from complications such as blood pressure due to the body failing to get rid of the accumulated toxins. The annual cost of dialysis of kidney for each patient is KD8,000 while the cost of transplanting a kidney is KD10,000 to KD12,000.

On the other hand, Dr. Bader Al Yacoub from the Faculty of Law of Kuwait University said that Kuwait's laws are considered to be pioneering in the field of transplant of organs. A law was issued on eyes in 1985 and another law for kidney transplants in 1987, the official said.

2 acquitted of abduction

THE Criminal Court has acquitted two men from the charge of abduction but sentenced each to three years and four months in jail on the charge of blackmailing.

The court also refrained from ruling against a woman, over 21, charged with having illegal sexual intercourse with one of the men when she turned out to be married to him after the incident.

The court heard that the woman had beckoned the victim who was driving a mini pick-up truck to give her a lift to Riqqa, but instead he took her home and attempted to molest her.

She was rescued by the appearance of both suspects who began beating the driver accusing him of attempting rape and threatening to take him to the police after getting him into a car.

However, they offered to hush up the whole matter if he agreed to give them KD600, but then they settled for KD250, which he gave them. He was then set free on the highway.

He managed to note up the number plate of their car and the matter was brought to the attention of the police.

Reservations on 2-day weekend

THE Civil Service Commission is studying several studies and proposals submitted to determine the feasibility of treating Thursday as an official holiday, including Friday.

The proposal to have a five-day working week at the government sectors has received mixed reactions from a cross-section of government officials and a final decision on the proposal is awaited, a responsible source said.



KPTC operates 57 different internal lines.

KPTC to see 3m rise in passengers

New bus terminals soon

By Jamal Ameen

THE chairman of the board and managing director of the Kuwait Public Transport Company Abdul Wahab Al Haroun has told Al Seyassah that the KPTC's buses transported a total of 122 million passengers in 1989 compared to 119 passengers transported in 1988.

He said that the KPTC operated on 57 different internal lines, using a total of 656 buses, of which 179 were air-conditioned and added that the total number of bus-users is expected to increase by three million in 1990.

The KPTC continually develops its services to meet the increasing demand for public transportation, particularly in newly constructed areas where the micro-buses were replaced by mini-buses. The number of private buses allocated to serve government ministries and establishments stood at 1785, of which 1150 were used to transport students, 108 given to the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training and used by the remaining government agencies and ministries.

The number of leased buses for haj caravans last year was 89 air-conditioned buses, which also contained toilets, water coolers and water supplies, while 16 umra caravans were commissioned to transport 1232 passengers using 39 buses.

The KPTC operated a new touristic service last year, known as the communal transportation system alongside Kuwait's seafront project, using two-storey buses starting at Ras Salamiya up to Kuwait Towers at a ticket of 250 fils.

Success

This service was very successful and 47,476 passengers were transported. The services were available three days of the week and during holidays and official off-days.

Commenting on KPTC marine services, he said that the company's fleet comprised 12 ferries three of which were operated as part of the country's national celebrations last year, adding that three of these ferries were used for transporting cars and cargo between Kuwait and the island of Failaka, while the remaining nine ferried passengers.

He pointed out that the total number of trips between Kuwait and Failaka last year amounted to 11,398, at journeys daily, and



Haroun... expecting an increase in passengers.

the number would double during holidays and weekends. The total number of passengers ferried since last year stood at 5,515, besides the private trips made by the company's ferries rented to hotels, private companies and societies, which stood at 38 journeys, compared to only 14 in 1988.

The KPTC had over the last year developed its overland and marine fleets as part of an overall plan, under which several contracts were made with countries such as Hungary, West Germany and Brazil to provide the KPTC with new buses, pointing out that the company had received 10 Brazilian buses, 9 of which were used for umra caravans.

The KPTC had built modern integrated end-of-line terminals over the past year, such as the Sharq terminal, which would become the second main terminal after the central terminal in Murgab. The designs for two terminals in Fahd Al Salem and Derwaizet Abdul Razzaq had been completed and construction would start during this year.

In the light of positive indicators witnessed by Kuwait and the region, such as the end of the Gulf war, the economic solutions proposed by the government recently to revive the local economy, the official forecast an increased turnover.

He added that these positive changes would reflect on the KPTC's activities, which would lead to the increase in passengers, as the number of visitors to Failaka was projected to increase in the process, particularly since the Touristic Enterprises Company had completed the development of the touristic village on the island.

He also said that the coming stage would witness the opera-

tion of the bus terminal in Sharq, and several new lines would be operated inside the Jazira area to interlink the suburbs to the centre, which would coincide with the projected increase in the inhabitants, now numbering 300,000.

Haroun added that similar lines would be operated to interlink Qurain and west Fintas to Kuwait City, and that the delay in operating this line had been due to unavoidable circumstances, mainly incomplete roads in the area. He said that a Ring Road would be inaugurated linking Fahadhel to Ahmedi, where a special land plot had been allocated for setting up a bus-terminal.

This would be accompanied by increasing the total number of buses already operating on certain lines to meet the increasing demand resulting from the growth in the inhabitants, such as in Jleeb Al Shiyukh, Fahadhel, Farwaniya and others.

Budget

Commenting on KPTC's budgetary policy, he said that the company still abided by the policy on rationalisation of spending and reduction of unnecessary expenditures, while endeavouring to increase revenues as much as possible to balance returns with expenditure, minimise government subsidy and work out the deficit.

He said that the company operated by the staff-incentive policy, which was based on rewarding staff through incentive allowances or bonuses for distinguished performance or by financial increases whereby to encourage staff to exert further effort and optimise their performance. Under this policy KPTC drivers would be able to benefit from the 10 per cent returns exceeding the normal rates.

Haroun stressed the role of the media in raising public awareness as reckless acts of vandalism targeted against the KPTC vehicles, pointing out that the company had already sent messages to the Interior Ministry and Education Ministry to put an end to irresponsible teen-age vandalism, emphasising the role of the parents in this process.

Haroun said that a meeting would be held next March between Kuwait and Iraq which would discuss the operation of joint haj and umra buses, which take passengers from Iraq to the holy lands, pointing out that co-ordination is still in progress between Saudi Arabia and Bahrain to operate similar lines.

Plan to counter blights: Hameed

THE Kuwait's Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources has formulated long-term plans to eradicate blights.

Speaking at a lecture on the theme of "Blights in the country and methods of fighting it," Dr. Mamdouh Abdul Hameed, an official at the authority concentrated on the relation between the environment and blights, the factors of natural balance and the effect of chemical insecticides on the environment.

He said that integrated fighting is imperative and serious steps should be taken to address this issue. He commented that continued use of chemical insecticides causes an imbalance in the natural environment.

The official disclosed that the authority is carrying out a plan at Abdali farms to test some insecticides as a first stage, in addition to testing other mechanical means to co-ordinate different methods being used to counter blights.

He cited innumerable cases where desert locusts had caused severe damage and losses to farmers during the last season and added that necessary precautions must be taken to encounter the envisaged invasion of such locusts during the next agricultural season.

He referred to the dangers of the red locusts that invaded Al Wafra and Al Abdali farms last season, adding that relevant research showed a new scientific trend aimed at fighting this dangerous locust by using biological methods.

Meanwhile, the secretary-general of Kuwait Agronomists Society said that all recommendations adopted by the seminars organised by the society focused on gaining the expertise of Arab countries in the agricultural field.

The official added that recommendations called for co-operation among the GCC countries in the agricultural field in general and in wheat cultivation in particular.

Meanwhile, the official confirmed the necessity for rationalisation in the use of chemical insecticides and the need to concentrate on biological methods.

Lehigh confers degrees upon 220

LEHIGH University awarded degrees to 220 students on Sunday, Jan 14 in Packer Memorial Church. The students were among those who completed their degree requirements during the fall semester and received bachelor's, master's or doctoral degrees.

This is the fourth year that Lehigh has held formal Commencement Exercises in January. In previous years the university held an informal reception for mid-year graduates in January and then invited the students back to campus to participate in the June Commencement.

Sir Michael Howard, an internationally known military historian, gave the principal address. Howard, who is currently Robert E. Lovett Professor of Military and Naval History at Yale University, received an honorary doctorate in humane letters during the ceremony.

Degrees were awarded individually to the students by Peter Likins, president of the university. Those receiving bachelor's or advanced degrees were:

From Belgium
HAMONT ACHIEL: Monique Petronella Jansen, Haag 79 3590, M.A. with a major in history.
From Bermuda
SOMERSET: Ricardo M. Swan, 98 Somerset Road, B.S. in electrical engineering.
From Costa Rica
SAN JOSE: Mario A. Esquivel, P.O. Box 882, B.S. in business and economics with a major in finance.

From Cyprus
Nicosia: Chrysanthos J. Strongylos, 11 Neoptolemos Str P.O. B.S. in industrial engineering.
From Greece
ATHENS: Elias Rogaris, 69 Al Panagoulis St., M.S. in electrical engineering.

From India
AHMEDABAD: Chintan A. Shah, Near Police Hq Shabiba, B.S. in industrial engineering.
HYDERABAD: Sanjay Jaiswal, Plot #28 Rd #5 Jubilee, M.B.A.

MADRAS: Jayaraman Ramamurthi, 3 11th Main Road Vijayan, M.S. in industrial engineering.
From Japan
TOKYO: Hiroshi Miyazaki, 6-23-2 Saginomiya Nako, M.B.A.

New policy plan on population imbalance

40pc nationals envisaged by 2015

By Hussein Salama

THE aim to achieve a balance in population between Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis during the last five-year-plan will not be included in the forthcoming 1990/1995 five-year-plan, a local daily said.

This aim will be replaced by a new policy aimed at changing the combination of population gradually according to a long-term strategy beginning 1990 and going into the year 2015.

The last date to represent the 1990/1995 draft plan by the Ministry of Planning to the higher authority is the second half of February this year — prior to the National Day celebrations. The plan will be referred to the Higher Planning Council for study by specialised committees and then referred to the Council of Ministers for approval.

Local economists have said that the long-term strategy aims at changing the percentage of national population to be 40 per cent in 2015 compared to 28 per cent at present.

They added that the last five-year-plan had achieved success in this respect. The percentage of expatriate population was reduced from 6 per cent between 1980 and 1985 to 4 per cent between 1985 and 1990. This is considered as an important achievement in the present political, economic and social scenario that controls the Population growth of expatriates.

The daily also said that the question of permanent residence for Arab expatriates has been removed from the agenda. Sources of the Higher Planning Council said that the issue does not serve national interests as it contradicts with the present five-year-plan aimed at equating the balance in population.

They added that the stability of expatriate manpower in Kuwait helps to increase the percentage of growth among them. The expatriate manpower should be imported to carry out a contract between them and their employees and then should return to their countries.

On the other hand, the economic committee of the Higher Planning Council held a meeting last week under chairmanship of Dr. Mohammed Al Sabah. The secretary general of the council Foad Mulla Hussain said that committee was asked to study a project submitted by the Ministry of Communications to amend the structure of local and external communications system. The project calls to establish a public establishment for communications to replace the Ministry of Communications.

It also included the establishment of a company or more to run the telecommunications locally and externally except the post service that will remain subject to government. The ministry of communications raised the project to the cabinet for study and referred it to the economic committee of HPC. The meeting of the committee was attended by officials of the Ministry of Communications beside members of the committee, Hussein said.

Consumers bemoan substandard foods

A SECTION of consumers stressed that some food stuff lack quality adding that low quality foods are sold at low prices to attract shoppers. They criticised the constant increase of food prices and called for better and more effective methods in classifying goods. At the same time, they praised the quality and price levels of locally manufactured food stuff.

Mohammed Ibrahim stated that due to the free market policy in Kuwait a consumer may find good and bad products. He pointed out that he always searches for the validity date of the product to avoid expired commodities.

He said that it is probably because of the co-operative societies policy which calls for gaining small profit and to satisfy shoppers who rely on displaying some cheap products which are low in quality. On the opposite side, many big commercial complexes which offer expensive prices are concerned more with quality. He indicated that some vegetables and fruits sections at co-operatives require more censorship pointing out that it is hard for consumers to find some good quality products nowadays.

Jasem Al Rabe, stated that most food commodities are high in quality but prices differ from one establishment to another. He called for unification of prices at all co-operative societies.

Mohammed Al Marri, one of the remote area residents currently residing in Riqqa Area pointed out that the quality of food commodities in Riqqa differs among societies. He added that commodities displayed close to the hospital area are higher in quality and adequate in price. He indicated that commodities displayed at co-operative societies in the remote areas of Riqqa and Al Jahra are of low quality and inadequate in price.

Meanwhile, deputy director of the Foods and Shop Licences Department, Ali Al Fors stressed that all exported commodities are submitted to a field test in order to ensure safety and availability of data special for these commodities.

The Exported Foods Committee specialises in granting licences for the import of food.

The Deputy Director of the Foods and Shop Licences Department at Kuwait Municipality pointed out that many violations have been reported from various areas in the country. In such cases all inspection sections scattered around the country are called upon to gather the specified commodity from markets with the fastest speed possible. He pointed out that most invalid commodities arrive to Kuwait from developing countries which have low manufacturing standards and weak censorship levels.

He stated that consumers carry full responsibility for reporting any invalid commodities. There are a total of one thousand and two hundred inspectors working around the clock to prevent violations. He indicated that the Foods and Shop Licences Department has seized 44 tonnes of invalid foods during last Dec 1989.

He said that grocery shops spreading and residential areas have high rates of invalid commodities. He stressed that locally manufactured products enjoy high quality and are offered with adequate prices. He said that locally manufactured items submit to regular tests and that any violations for standards leads to the closure of the factory. He stressed that restaurants, hotels, markets and co-operative societies comply to daily inspection by the department inspectors.



Freih... legislation

Seminar to organise official information

By Lima Al Khalafawi

Arab Times staff

KUWAIT'S official information is not properly organised and needs strong legislation and organisation, according to the chairperson of the organising committee of the seminar on Official Information and its Role in Scientific Research and Decision Making, Ferial Al Freih.

Freih said during a press conference held yesterday at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), the such official information lacks the standard to support its production, storage and distribution. She added that the seminar will open Monday under the auspices of the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Rashed Al Rashed. She said that official information is produced by different government establishments, such as printed material statistics, research and reports.

In Kuwait, three sectors — producing, organising agencies and users — control this information.

Objectives

Freih added that the main objectives of this seminar is to discuss and review the production and organisation of this information, its utilisation, and review its present status in the country.

She said that other objectives of the seminar includes evaluating the production of this information and to tailor a plan to develop official information.

Participants from Kuwait, Jordan's Ministry of Planning, Saudi Arabia's General Administration Institute, Egypt's Information and Decision Making Support Centre at Council of Ministers, GCC's General Secretariat Information Centre and the Arab League's Documentation and Information Centre will submit papers during the seminar.

The seminar is scheduled from Jan 29 until Jan 31 at KISR.

UAE student delegation

KUWAIT, Jan 27. (Kuna): Assistant Rector of Kuwait University for Community Services and Information Dr. Rasha Hmoud Al Sabah received today a delegation of the UAE University students on the occasion of their visit to Kuwait at the invitation of Kuwait University.

Dr. Rasha spoke to the female students on the strong relations between Kuwait and the UAE and the fraternal ties between the two countries universities in all fields.

Only 8,000 Kuwaitis in private jobs

Comprehensive manpower plan

THE undersecretary of Ministry of Planning Dr Abdul Hadi Al Awadi has said that only 8,000 Kuwaiti nationals are working in the private sector marking only 1.4 per cent of total manpower in that sector as compared to 585,000 expatriates working in private sector (98.6 per cent).

He added that the coming five-year plan stresses on the participation of the private sector in development plans. The private sector has a national role to train and employ national manpower. The state takes into consideration the necessity of contribution of the private sector in carrying out some construction projects, Awadi said.

He pointed out that the law of industry states that Kuwaiti nationals at the industrial sector should not be less than 25 per cent of total manpower in this sector. But

this law was issued many years ago. Now the situation has changed because Kuwaiti graduates number in the thousands and they should have good opportunities to work in the private sector, he said.

Projects

Awadi pointed out that the long term plan discussed the completion of housing projects urgently to reduce the period that citizens should wait in order to get government houses. He added that productive projects like projects of oil sector, Shuaiba Industrial Area and services projects of different governorates will be given priority in the next plan.

He added that the state intends to carry out complete complexes for all service ministries in order to facilitate achievement of formalities for citizens instead of

commuting among several buildings and places to achieve them. A number of important grand projects will be carried out in future like Sibbiya City and telecommunications network and transportation will attract the concern of authorities in future plans, the official said.

Training

Awadi pointed out that coming development plan focuses on building the Kuwaiti man and encouraging citizens to work in technical and professional jobs. This aim can be achieved by supporting training and social establishments that support religious values and traditions. He added that percentage of population of Kuwaitis does not exceed 27 per cent of total population in the country which shows that birth rate among expatriates is more than among Kuwaitis. The change in

the population combination is being made by the gradual reduction of expatriates in the country especially the un-essential and non-productive workers.

He added that Kuwaiti graduates do not suffer from unemployment, but the long routine of employing them delays their appointment and he commented that procedures of appointment should be reduced. He added that the Planning Ministry has prepared a comprehensive plan for manpower in the country to be a base for ministerial committee of manpower that is headed by the planning minister. The coming plan determines needs of every ministry and government establishment for manpower. Secondary jobs like services and non-productive jobs will be drastically reduced in the next plan, the official said.



King Wangchuck arrives

Bhutan's King Jigme Singye Wangchuck arrived here at 3:30 pm yesterday on an official three-day visit to Kuwait. King Wangchuck will hold talks with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah on bilateral relations and means of boosting them in various fields as well as issues of mutual interest.

Emigration of Soviet Jews a serious matter: Ossaimi

Debate on Arab issues not satisfactory

KUWAIT, Jan 27, (Kuna): Kuwait's State Minister for Foreign Affairs Saad Mohammed Al Ossaimi said today that the migration of Soviet Jews to Israel would not be viewed with satisfaction and cannot contribute to the peace and stability of the region.

He stressed that the settlement of Jewish immigrants in occupied Arab territories was a breach of UN resolutions.

Ossaimi, addressing a press conference attended by Arab and foreign reporters, held the United Nations and the Security Council responsible for permitting the Jews from the Soviet Union and other Eastern European countries to settle in the occupied Arab territories.

The Kuwaiti official, responding to a question on the unrest in the Soviet Union, said the developments in Azerbaijan and other Soviet republics is a Soviet internal affair, that concerns Moscow alone.

Referring to rapid political developments in various parts of the world, he regretted that Arab issues were still being debated at a level that leaves much to be desired.

Dispute

Answering a query, Ossaimi said Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed had sent a letter to Turkish Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz as a part of Kuwait's efforts to mediate a settlement of a dispute between Turkey and both Syria and Iraq.

The dispute arose from Turkey's decision to substantially cut

the Euphrates river water flow for a month starting last January 13, a move which Syria and Iraq complained would cause them serious economic hardships.

Ossaimi, denied press reports that the Gulf Co-operation Council summit, held in Oman last month, saw disputes over internal GCC matters, and said it was only normal to have conflicting viewpoints.

He renewed Kuwait's backing to the Arab League Tripartite Committee on Lebanon and dismissed the theory that the committee had reached a dead-end.

Modifications

The Kuwaiti state minister urged the Arab countries to modify their traditional way of thinking and adopt a comprehensive view towards international developments. Ossaimi said a study on the issue would be presented before a forthcoming meeting of the Arab foreign ministers to consider bringing it up at a future Arab summit.

"The independence of what was taking place in Eastern Europe, said other world countries should be linked with the development in Western Europe particularly after the launching of the European single market by 1992. He said this issue was of concern to the entire Arab world and not Kuwait alone.

Asked on a reported call by Sudan for the convening of an emergency Arab summit to consider the Israeli presence in neighbouring Ethiopia, Ossaimi said Kuwait had not received such an official request, indicating that Kuwait would not accept



Ossaimi

any Israeli infiltration in South Sudan whether through Ethiopia or else.

Reiterating Kuwait's support to the recent Iraqi peace offer with Iran, Ossaimi appealed to Iran to respond to all efforts aimed at establishing peace in the region.

Asked on whether the Arab League would sponsor the Iraqi initiative, Ossaimi made it clear that it was a Lebanese affair and not to the Arab League if asked to do so.

Differences

Commenting on recent statements by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak that Kuwait was taking part along with other Arab countries in mediation efforts to normalise relations between Iraq and Syria, Ossaimi underlined that Kuwait's efforts were in the framework of Arab efforts to end differences between any sisterly Arab countries.

He said the council of the Arab League would discuss moving

the headquarters of the organisation in its upcoming meeting scheduled for next March in Tunis.

Ossaimi said it was premature to call for an emergency Arab summit on Lebanon as long as the tripartite committee had not requested the convening of such a meeting.

He said the committee was entrusted with two issues: bringing just peace to Lebanon and calling an Arab summit if its efforts in this direction reached a dead end.

Ossaimi regretted continuation of fighting between Afghan people and appealed to the belligerents to sit at the negotiating table to stop the bloodshed now that foreign troops had moved out of the country.

Ossaimi announced that His Highness the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah would visit the United Kingdom in mid-March for talks with British "officials on Arab issues, especially the Palestinian cause, and the situation in Lebanon."

Responding to a question on Kuwait's relations with Eastern bloc countries following the recent changes in those countries, he said people and not regimes were the cornerstone of Kuwait's relations with other countries.

Ossaimi indicated that resumption of diplomatic relations between East European countries and Israel would be given adequate attention at the regular meeting of the Arab League's council.

Zakat House

30,000 orphans to be aided

ACTING director of the Zakat House Abdul Qader Dahi Al Ojail has said that the number of orphans maintained by the house is expected to reach 30,000 over the next five years.

He told a local daily that the house currently maintained 15,792 orphans in 27 different countries, with the cost being paid by 11,762 sponsors from inside and outside Kuwait. The total value of sums offered to orphans by sponsors on an annual basis reached KD1,750,000 and that the cost per capita ranged from KD7 to 30, based on the cost of living in the orphan's home country.

He said that the orphan maintenance project was targeted at realisation of social security among members of the Muslim community, in compliance with the Prophet's saying (Peace and Allah's blessing be Upon Him): "None will be a true believer until he dies for his brother what he died for himself."

He added that the project was aimed at securing decent Islamic education to Muslim children, in order that they become productive and contribute actively to the progress and development of their society, besides attempting to meet all requirements of the orphans.

He said that house's plan for the next year involved the installation of modern equipment to calculate the alms value due on companies, and that a guide to this effect was currently being prepared by an ad-hoc committee of Muslim scholars.

He said that the house was endeavouring to diversify the channels for charity projects inside Kuwait to support the social set-up, meet the needy's requirements, fund different charity projects targeted at beneficiaries from various social and economic levels.

He said that the house also endeavoured to raise public awareness regarding payment of alms under the Islamic system, reconsider existing financial and administrative structures, within the framework of administrative development, which among other things would focus on training and dissemination of advanced administrative, functional and other concepts as seen productively applicable from the Islamic view point, which mainly stresses the element of self-control and supervision.

4pc rise in GNP

Improved economy ahead, says Khorafi

THE chairman of the board at the National Bank of Kuwait Mohamad Abdul Mohsen Al Khorafi has said that the Kuwaiti economy has been adjusting to the current state of affairs, following the Iran-Iraq ceasefire adding that the decade of the nineties will witness remarkable improvement in the economic structure in Kuwait.

He told a local daily that the commencement of implementing the recommendations of the Joint Economic Committee for reviving the economic cycle in the country, and developing the bad loan settlement programme is a good sign of the economic adjustment process.

Khorafi said this was reflected in the gross national product statistics which registered a rise of four per cent in 1989, compared to the slight drop registered in 1988, stressing the remarkable growth in the national oil product in the wake of rising oil exports and stability of oil prices on world markets.

He said that the non-oil national product, which reflected the economic growth on the local market, was expected to register a slight growth during 1990, particularly in industries such as construction, consumer industries, wholesale and retail trade activities, financial deals and insurance businesses.

He said that in line with the financial policy pursued in the country, indications had shown the stability of government spending over the past fiscal years at a total sum of KD3000 million.

Spending

He added that the latest statistical reports on the national budget for the fiscal year 1989-1990 revealed that the government spending would reach KD3326 million, registering an increase of 4.1 per cent over the last fiscal year.

He also said that the final accounts of the fiscal year 1988-1989 showed that the government spending reached KD3000 million, with an increase of 6.9 per cent over the year before, while the deficit registered in the year 1988-89 amounted to KD869 millions.

Recommendations adopted by the Joint Economic Committee were comprehensive in relaxing constraints in various sectors, and increasing flexibility to facilitate implementation, Khorafi said.

He added that a joint sub-committee was set up under the chairmanship of Central Bank Governor Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah to eliminate obstacles and identify the agencies entrusted with the implementation and follow up of the recommendations to reactivate the economic situation in the country as stated in the Joint Economic Committee Report.

According to figures of the final accounts on the national budget, projected deficit for the fiscal year 89/90 was expected to reach KD1318 million, which was much lower in the years before, due to the strict implementation of the rationalisation of public spending and elimination of unnecessary expenditures.

Khorafi said that the reason for developing the new interest price structure as detailed by the Central Bank was the widening of the gap between the interest rates on deposits in Kuwaiti dinars, and international interest rates which would in the short term lead to the increase in the demand for hard currencies, and ultimately would negatively affect the level of liquidity on the local market and cause economic inconveniences.

On the continuous development of the National Bank of Kuwait, he said that these reflected the massive economic and financial developments witnessed by Kuwait since the fifties, adding that up to the year 1952, Kuwait had only one foreign bank that performed banking services.

He added that the requirements accompanying the economic boom in oil returns and the subsequent rise in spending levels, revealed an urgent need for the establishment of a financial institution to take care of all banking requirements at home, and meet the increasing demand for banking transactions.

He said that the bank was established with the Kuwaiti capital equalling KD982,500 = 13,100,000 Indian rupees, and that the bank managed to develop and grow with full government support.

Housing system

will be re-evaluated

THE Minister of State for Housing Affairs and chairman of the National Housing Authority Naser Abdullah Mishari Al Roudhan has said that the NHA has finalised procedures preceding the opening of the Sawabir Complex Flat-users Union.

He told a local daily during a press conference that the new housing system might not be the best, but circumstances had to be taken stock of, which would necessitate the re-evaluation of the system after trial.

He said that the government was offering loans to citizens wishing to expand their existing houses to include all growing family members. This decision in line with a study made on the drop in Kuwaiti population percentage in model residential areas, due to the outflow of Kuwaiti couples to their new houses in recently-built residential areas, and the need to rationalise the use of residential areas.

On the new housing system, he said that the system served the requirements of the current stage which took into considerations some of the existing social and financial factors, and also served the government's major objective to rationalise the use of land-plots currently available.

He said that the NHA was currently preparing a manual containing the cabinet decision on the housing care system and all related ministerial decisions. The manual will be distributed on the occasion of the country's national day celebrations.

Dairy inspection

KUWAIT, Jan 27, (Kuna): Board Chairman of Public Authority for Agriculture and Fisheries Affairs Sheikh Ibrahim Duaji Al Ibrahim Al Sabah today inspected dairy farms in Sulabiya City where he got acquainted with the organisational and technical structure of the facilities.

Parks contracted

KUWAIT, Jan 27, (Kuna): The Public Authority for Agriculture and Fisheries has contracted a local firm for building three parks in the areas of Hadiya, Sabahiya and Fahaeel.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amiri audience

KUWAIT, Jan 27, (Kuna): His Highness the Amir today received His Highness Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah and Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber.

PPC message

THE Pakistan People's Club has sent a message of congratulations to Pakistan Premier Benazir Bhutto on the birth of her baby daughter. The message was also addressed to Asif Zardari, Benazir's husband. The PPC also distributed sweets to celebrate the occasion. A meeting was held at the residence of PPC general secretary Rafiq Ahmed Mirza. It was chaired by PPC President for Kuwait and ME, Dr Riaz Ahmed Mahesar.



Indian Republic Day reception

Indian Ambassador Arun K. Budhiraja hosted a reception Friday to celebrate his country's Republic Day. A large number of Indian businessmen, Kuwaiti officials and envoys attended. Picture shows Japanese Ambassador Takyoshi Kurokawa greeting Mrs. Budhiraja at the ambassador and Counsellor R.S. Mukhija and his wife look on.

'Mad cow' in Oman

LONDON, Jan 27, (Kuna): The first cases of "Mad cow" disease diagnosed outside Britain, the Channel Islands and the Irish Republic have been reported from the Sultanate of Oman, it was revealed here today.

A letter in the specialised publication here, the Veterinary Record, said the disease, Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, (BSE), was found in the GCC country in two Jersey cows imported from England in 1985.

"The Times", which highlighted the report, said the discovery is likely to reinforce concern about live animals exported from the UK.

Earlier this week, the EEC decided to ban the import from Britain of live cattle aged more than six months. No case of BSE has been diagnosed in animals younger than this, the paper noted.

Saudi Arabia kicks off novel way of combatting drugs

RIYADH, Jan 27, (AP): Saudi Arabia's anti-drug caravan was given an official send-off today by the Riyadh Vice Governor, Prince Sattam, and diplomats including US Ambassador Charles W. Freeman Jr.

The 600-metre-long (600 yards) caravan is made up of five trucks, 25 sedans, an armoured vehicle, a horse-drawn cart carrying a marching band, eight camels and patrol police cars. It began a five-day tour in the capital as helicopters hovered above.

Crowds of Saudi men cheered in the parking lot of the Malaz Sports stadium, the starting point for the caravan.

The lot was filled with white tents containing visual displays, books, stickers, and pamphlets on drug abuse. The United States Information Service helped provide anti-drug leaflets for the helicopters to shower.

Helium-filled balloons, brightly coloured flags and streamers brightened the atmosphere. The caravan, the kingdom's most ambitious anti-drug information campaign to date, will visit 11 other cities around the kingdom before continuing to spread its message to neighbouring Gulf countries and other Arab states in the region.

Leaflets will be distributed to the public and theatrical events, with drug abuse as the main theme, will be performed by Saudi actors.

While Saudi Arabia's drug problem is minor in comparison to most Western countries, the kingdom has responded swiftly to curtail the flow of narcotics across its borders.

Declaring drug smuggling and trafficking un-Islamic, the Saudi Monarch King Fahd issued a royal decree mandating the death penalty for drug smugglers three years ago.

Since then, 21 people have been publicly beheaded for drug offenses and, according to the National Commission for Combating Drugs, drug abuse and trafficking have decreased by 50 per cent in the kingdom.

"The decision to execute drug smugglers has had a major impact," said Maj. Gen Ibrahim Al Maiman, acting director of the National Commission. In interviews with the local press, Maiman has expressed hope that the caravan, organised by his office, will help to educate Saudi citizens, especially the younger ones, about the negative effect of drugs.

"The caravan is a new style initiated for the first time to enlighten youth against the psychological, physical, social, and economic harms of drugs," said Maiman.

"Parades, festivals, shows, competitions and gifts will ensure bigger attendance to the caravan and will hence enable us to distribute more pamphlets and books against drugs," said Maiman.



Downpour

Heavy rain last night in Kuwait lowered already low temperatures, and added to the misery of shivering people. Water overflowed (picture) on many of the streets as drainpipes were clogged. People returning from work were taken off guard as the downpour occurred around 8.00 pm. Scattered rain is expected today.

ساعات محرومة لا تتركها
قاعات شراوات حارة
مطاعم فاخرة راقية
ملاهي ليلية مبهجة
4739255
4786176

Required Waitresses
For a fancy coffee shop
in Abu Halifa preferably
Filipino nationals. Attractive
salary — must have
transferable residence.
Contact:
Nash Hasham
Tel: 3925713

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

THE luck of having talent isn't enough; you must also have a talent for luck — Hector Berlioz, French composer (1803-1869).

Turmoil not standing in way

Gorby reforms gaining ground

MOSCOW, (Reuters): President Mikhail Gorbachev and the movement towards wider reform in the Soviet Union appear gaining ground despite the Transcaucasian crisis and more gloomy economic news, Soviet and foreign analysts have said.

"I'm not going to say that the stronger than ever but there are plenty of signs that on the political front things are going his way," said one senior Western ambassador with many years experience of Kremlin-watching.

"Over the past month, I've felt an unmistakably strong pressure for pushing hard ahead for reform among ordinary people," said liberal Moscow editor Anatoly Belyayev, standing for election to Russia's Parliament in March.

Just a week ago, Gorbachev sent troops into the Azerbaijani capital of Baku in an operation that Defence Minister Dmitry Yazov has now agreed was launched to put down a popular movement that had seized power from the local Communist Party.

Moscow officials, in conversations with foreign visitors, have expressed fears the Soviet Army might find itself bogged down in a costly Northern Ireland-style operation to keep Azerbaijanis and Armenians apart.

Results

On Thursday, economic results for 1989 were released showing what Soviet analysts say was an effective decline in gross national product, national income and the output of industrial and agricultural goods.

A writer in the government newspaper Izvestia and intellectuals in Moscow and Siberia said opponents of Gorbachev's perestroika were uniting. They urged supporters of reform to rally "in the name of progress and democracy."

But there have been other straws in the wind. Over the past month — including twice in the past week — well-known conservatives have been ousted from the leadership of six key party bodies in major cities and regions across the country.

All the dismissals, which in at least two cases involved the removal not just of the local number one but also of his team, follow grass-roots pressure and street protests which liberals say shows growing popular political awareness.

A commentator for the intellectuals' weekly Literary Gazette said a Moscow conference of the strongly reformist party clubs from all over the Soviet Union, showed the drive for radical party reform was winning massive support.

Situation

On February 5 and 6, the party's policy-making Central Committee meets. The session has been postponed by one week to allow time for the situation in Azerbaijan to clarify, according to reliable Soviet sources.

On the agenda will be the outcome of Gorbachev's visit to rebel Lithuania earlier this month, when the Kremlin chief told the people of the Baltic republic he shared their concept of what democracy should be but urged them to stay in the union.

Also up for discussion is a new programme to be approved at a party congress scheduled for October. Many reformers, including most recently a conference of communist leaders in Moscow factories and institutions, want the congress held sooner.

The programme will almost certainly contain much of Gorbachev's own ideas on how the widely discredited party should be reshaped.

There have been increasing calls from moderates as well as radicals for the party itself to recommend the scrapping of article 6 of the 1977 constitution which assigns to it the leading role in society.

The version that emerges from the February Central Committee meeting will show clearly just how far Gorbachev's own ideas can prevail. Some Western diplomatic analysts believe his Lithuanian experience has pushed him further down the radical road.

Despite a massive purge of old-style officials almost a year ago, the 250-member committee still has a built-in majority of conservatives, mainly provincial party leaders who fear the loss of their power and influence.

Dogmatic

"We are still hostages to a few dozen dogmatic members of the Central Committee who represent one-way," Alexander Tsipko, a former adviser inside the committee's permanent apparatus in Moscow, said earlier this month.

"Having no skills but primitive political demagoguery, they have intimidated everyone, slowed down the tempo of the changes we needed so much, and compromised the party and its leaders in the eyes of a fatigued population," he declared.

The provincial leaders removed over the past few weeks — in the city of Volgograd, the Siberian oil centre of Tyumen, in Vladivostok in the Far East and Zhitomir in the Ukraine — were committee members in that mould, reformers say.

"Their departure, although formally they still hold their seats on the Central Committee, can only strengthen the reformists. But there is a long way to go yet," said one radical party member on Friday.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1561 — Huguenots' persecution in France is suspended by edict of Orleans.

1689 — Britain's Parliament declares that James II has abdicated; Germany's Baron Melas devastates the Palatinate.

1846 — East India Company troops defeat Sikhs at Aliwal in India.

1871 — Paris surrenders to Germany in Franco-Prussian war.

1885 — British relief force reaches Khartoum, and the Sudan is evacuated.

1909 — US control in Cuba is ended.

1932 — Japanese troops occupy Shanghai in China.

1945 — First US truck convoy travels reopened Burma road in World War II.

1961 — Rwanda provisional government proclaims republic.

1962 — US unmanned spacecraft, Ranger III, fails to hit Moon and passes it at distance of 22,000 miles.

1964 — Riots break out in Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia.

1976 — US Senate approves 200-mile fishing limit off American coasts.

1980 — Islamic foreign ministers meeting in Pakistan passes resolution condemning Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

1983 — Labour group Solidarity's underground leaders call on Poland's factory workers to prepare for nationwide general strike as "the only way to break down the existing dictatorship."

1984 — Dozens of Sikh militants are arrested in India's troubled Punjab state after terrorists kill three people and wound 31 others in grenade attacks.

1986 — Space shuttle Challenger explodes moments after liftoff from Cape Canaveral, Florida, killing all seven crew members.

1988 — Almost 150 countries, at world Aids summit in London, pledge to join global war on the disease.

1989 — Muslim rebel leader says warplanes operating from Soviet bases are bombing dozens of villages in Afghanistan.

Age-old dispute rears its head again

Hostilities fuel Caucasus strife

MOSCOW, (UPI): What began as an attempt to settle a centuries-old territorial dispute has erupted into an all-out crusade by Azerbaijanis and Armenians to achieve ethnic, nationalistic and religious goals.

Suspensions and hostilities with deep historical roots are fuelling the wave of unrest that began two years ago and escalated Jan 13 into brutal ethnic attacks and open warfare.

The latent tension was exacerbated by current conditions in the Caucasus: the feeling that economic and political reforms have not improved people's lives in the largely underdeveloped region plagued by unemployment and environmental woes.

Such diverse observers as chess champion Garry Kasparov, an Armenian Jew who fled the Azerbaijani capital Baku during the violence, and Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh agree that ethnic and not religious motivations are foremost. Armenians are predominantly Christians and Azerbaijanis Shiite Muslim.

Conflict

Western scholars call it an ethnic conflict with religious overtones. Fanatical Azerbaijanis vowed to drive all Armenians off their land.

The Azerbaijani People's Front, which has spearheaded the anti-Armenian campaign, has also called for their republic to secede from the Soviet Union and establish "special ties" with Iran and other Islamic countries.

It is not just idle talk. Most Armenians were indeed forced out, and the People's Front was involved in the destruction of border defenses on Soviet Azerbaijan's frontier with Iran earlier this month. Protesters called for reunifying Soviet Azerbaijan and the two Azerbaijani provinces of Iran, a region that was part of Persia until Russian expansion under the czars forced its division in 1828.

The current conflict has turned the rugged hills of the southern Caucasus into what even Soviet officials have called President Mikhail S. Gorbachev's Lebanon — the most protracted and bloodiest manifestations of the ethnic strife sweeping the Soviet Union and one of the most serious crises the President has faced.

Encompassed

It has encompassed 15 million people, including residents of both republics, as well as members of the two ethnic groups living in neighbouring Georgia and southern Russia.

Temperatures of Armenians and Azerbaijanis flared for nearly two years whenever politicians in Baku, the Armenian capital Yerevan or Moscow reached decisions concerning Nagorno-Karabakh, the poor, small hilly district of 186,000 people, mostly Armenians, that is claimed by both sides.

Nagorno-Karabakh became a battle cry that woke up ancient hostilities between Armenians and Azerbaijanis. The weekly Ogonyok magazine on Sunday published an appeal to Armenians and Azerbaijanis to "win over each other with love and forgiveness, not weapons and fire." The appeal dates back to July 1905.

But there has been little attempt to hide the hatred.

As the feud produced hundreds of thousands of refugees, the hatred increased and the stones, torches and guns came out. Hostages were taken, railroad bridges blown up, water pipes severed and homes burned. Troops sent in to restore order were ambushed.

The voice of reason has been losing out to extremism, said Arkady I. Volsky, formerly the Kremlin's hand-picked administrator of Nagorno-Karabakh. The point was driven home to him after meeting with elderly Armenians and Azerbaijanis in a village.

"The oldsters emerged from the meeting in a mood of reconciliation. But young people, inflamed by nationalist rhetoric, did not go along with them," Volsky told the magazine New Times.

Much of the bitterness, he said, comes from refugees, who account for 10 per cent of the district's population.

"These uprooted people are behind all the rallies and disobedience campaigns. They are the base for every kind of extremism," the Kremlin official said.



A young girl stares through a bullet-hole window in a Baku flat after Soviet troops quelled an ethnic unrest in the city. (Reuters wirephoto)

even before the latest and most bloody flare-up.

An estimated 220,000 Armenian refugees from Azerbaijan have settled in their home republic, many without jobs or homes and more than willing to take up arms to fight those who drove them away. Unemployment in Armenia is reported to be 18 per cent.

Refugees are also prime recruits for ethnic militants in Azerbaijan, where unemployment is even higher, 27.6 per cent. More than 200,000 Azerbaijanis fled Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia. The Soviet press has suggested it was these down-trodden Azerbaijanis who attacked Armenians in Baku, to drive them out and grab their apartments.

Class antagonism also may have played a role. Many of the Armenians living in Baku were better educated than Azerbaijanis and financially in privileged positions because of their jobs in the oil industry that dominates the city.

National pride and sovereignty are other factors driving the unrest. Azerbaijanis saw Armenians' attempt to regain Nagorno-Karabakh as an insult to their national pride, and Moscow's attempts to mediate as an infringement on their sovereignty.

"Without Shusha, Azerbaijan has no soul," goes an Azerbaijani saying that refers to a town in Nagorno-Karabakh that historically has been peopled by Azerbaijanis.

Armenians, particularly sensitive to threats to their survival since an estimated 1.5 million of their ancestors perished at the hands of Ottoman Turks in 1915, are driven by the feeling that their people were discriminated against in Nagorno-Karabakh under Azerbaijani leaders, cut off from their home republic, deprived of their culture, religion and adequate schools and hospitals. They equate Azerbaijanis with Turks, whose language resembles theirs.

Shamir to play crucial peace role

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, (Reuters): The future of stalled Middle East peace efforts lies with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir as he wrestles with conflicting domestic and international pressures.

Israeli and Palestinian analysts say everything depends on whether Shamir is willing to confront hardliners in his right-wing Likud Party, then accept an emerging compromise on Israeli-Palestinian peace talks discussed by his Labour Party coalition partners with the United States and Egypt.

If Shamir defeats rebels led by hawkish Trade Minister Ariel Sharon at a key Likud central committee meeting on February 7, labour leaders believe a deal is possible leading to elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel last May, under pressure from a long-running Arab uprising in the occupied territories, proposed the elections to choose delegates to discuss an interim period of self-rule.

Accepts

However, if Shamir again accepts hardline constraints for the sake of party unity, there may be no "peace process" and Labour may finally bring down Israel's national unity government.

"Shamir bowed to the 'ministers of constraint' once in July. It angered the Americans and the Egyptians and almost drove Labour out of the government," said a Labour official. "He can't afford to do it again."

Labour sources say the compromise that could unlock peace negotiations involves accepting some Palestinians expelled from the occupied territories and some Arabs from Israeli-annexed East Jerusalem as delegates to preparatory talks in Cairo. Egypt would announce the delegation, with PLO blessing, and the Palestinians would be allowed to state their aims of self-determination and statehood in an opening statement before detailed talks focus on elections in the occupied territories.

Ideas

Labour leader and Vice-Premier Shimon Peres raised the ideas with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo on Wednesday after Labour Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin discussed them with US Secretary of State James Baker in Washington last week.

"This is an attempt to activate peace efforts before the momentum disappears completely," said Radevan Abo Ayash, head of the Arab Journalists Association in the occupied territories and a prominent nationalist leader.

Shamir's office has sniped at Labour's diplomacy but the prime minister, who fears Peres may try to form an alternative coalition with Jewish religious parties and small leftist groups, has not categorically ruled out compromise.

Rabin is keen to preserve the national unity coalition with Likud, but even he may have no option but to walk out if Likud slams the door on peace talks.

Baker has signalled growing exasperation with Shamir's stalling, while insisting he remains com-

mitted to bring about peace talks.

Addressing domestic audiences this month, the 74-year-old Israeli premier has made some of his toughest statements on the peace process, the Palestinians and Soviet Jewish immigration, apparently aiming to rally the Likud right behind him.

He angered Washington by calling for a "big Israel," encompassing the occupied territories, to accommodate a mass wave of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union.

Radicals could take over

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): Islamic militants committed to destroying Israel could emerge as the dominant force in the occupied West Bank and Gaza if current efforts to establish an Israeli-Palestinian peace dialogue fail, a senior US official had said.

The official, a key Bush administration policy-maker on the Middle East, also told Reuters in an interview that should Israel appear to be vacillating on the peace process, it would be unlikely to get the extra aid it needs to absorb an influx of Soviet Jewish immigrants.

The same held if Israel tried to settle Soviet Jews in its West Bank and Gaza settlements.

Commitment

"The commitment of people here to contribute is going to be influenced by what they see as an Israeli approach that does not introduce the territories into this equation and also has an Israeli government that looks like it is doing all it can on the peace issue," said the official, who asked not to be identified.

Meanwhile, Secretary of State James Baker played down a statement by Israeli Vice-Premier Shimon Peres that agreement to begin an Israeli-Palestinian peace dialogue was close.

"I'm not sure that I would have used the characterisation that Mr Peres used," Baker told reporters. "I'm encouraged as a result of the meetings we had here in Washington

last week... (but) I'm not sure that I'm that encouraged. I think we still have a pretty good way to go," Baker said.

On the radicalisation of the territories, which has been spurred by the two-year Palestinian uprising against 22 years of Israeli military rule that has left over 800 people dead, the senior US official said: "If one looks at the changes that are taking place in the (occupied) territories, there is a marriage of demographics and zeal. Time does not serve our interests."

"I believe you have a traditional elite in the territories that very much would like to have a (peace) process because they fear they will be supplanted by those whose commitment is really to struggle and not toward reconciliation."

It was the clearest warning yet from the Bush administration that it views the advance of Islamic fundamentalist organisations like the Hamas group as a growing threat to the peace process.

"Quite frankly, my feeling is those who embody this attitude, whether they are Hamas or they are more amorphous in terms of any particular identification — those groups really are opposed to any kind of deal at all," the official said.

The United States is working to get peace talks under way between Israel and a Palestinian delegation but its efforts have been stymied by disagreements over who should

represent the Palestinians.

The official said Washington had not yet even begun to tackle the question of the delegation and was still trying to work out a way to provide Israel and Egypt with assurances they had requested regarding the peace process.

Flood

"We have not really gotten into the name game. We're trying to nail down assurances that requires that each side avoids certain symbols while we address some of their concerns," he said.

On the flood of Soviet Jews to Israel, which last week prompted Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to speak of the need for a "big Israel" to absorb them, the official said any move to settle more Jews in West Bank settlements would get short shrift from the United States and American Jewry.

As many as 400,000 Soviet Jews could arrive in Israel over the next two years, according to estimates accepted by Washington. The United States says it will only accept 50,000 Soviet refugees a year.

"Israel looks to world Jewry and especially American Jewry — to provide at least \$500 million and that figure is likely to go up. They're looking as well to Congress to provide money. The fact is they're not going to get money if they're going to suggest getting them in the West Bank," the official said.

Letters to the editor

Personal criticisms

SIR: During last month on my return trip to Kuwait, I found 'Arab Times' at Bahraio international airport bookstore. Congratulations for internationally circulating the newspaper.

Nowadays I have read a number of letters to the editor which disclose so many unfair practices of socio-cultural organisations, individuals etc. and promoted public attitude towards the community.

At the same time anonymous personal criticisms are also staging a comeback, am I correct? A letter appeared Jan 23 and 'Personal Fame' is the headline of the letter.

According to UMO's 1989-90's office bearers I am also among them. As per the writer's conclusion, general secretary of UMO has published his personal profile for fame. Sympathetically I requested her to collect the cash reward of Rs.1000/only if she can produce the evidence and supporting documents.

I would like to draw the attention of all well wishers to go through our forthcoming press release regarding the baseless allegations poured on UMO.

Devadas Pappinasseril, Secretary United Malayalee Organisation

Good intentions

SIR: I would like to highlight an issue which recently happened at the Indian Arts Circle. IAC was organising the Nehru Centenary celebration with different competitions for school children which was parallel to Bharat Mela by UMO. In that venture many of the competitions were not properly organised and an entrance fee of KD 1 for each competitor was collected by the authorities. Through this, thousands of dirhams were collected by them. Even though some minor mistakes happened to the Bharat Mela, but it is significant to note that UMO officials did not collect any money from the participants.

Now I suggest the UMO critics to move against such money making business organised by IAC in the name of any such celebrations instead of criticising UMO for its good intentional activities.

E.K. Narayanan, Sabiyia

Publish horoscope

SIR: Your daily newspaper the "Arab Times" has been feeding a yearly horoscope every year in the month of January for its readers in the past. It is still being awaited for this year.

Please publish the yearly horoscope for the year 1990 at your earliest. Please publish the weekly TV programme as before on every Saturday.

Iqbal Shahid, Safal.

ALL letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Cronies on trial

BUCHAREST, (Reuters): Four lieutenants of Nicolae Ceausescu, Romania's executed dictator, go on trial charged with complicity to commit genocide.

Here are portraits of the four defendants: Tudor Postelnicu, 57: As Ceausescu's last interior minister he stands accused of giving the order to Securitate secret police who fired on insurgents during the December uprising.

An intelligence specialist appointed deputy interior minister in 1978, he was inseparable from his chief. They even resembled each other in looks.

But Ceausescu turned his raging temper onto Postelnicu when he learned the politician on December 17. He demanded to know why security forces failed to open fire to break up the protest rally in the western city of Timisoara on December 15 which sounded the death knell of the 24-year regime.

"I assure you comrades secretary-general that such a situation will not be repeated," Postelnicu promised after a grovelling confession. A few hours later many were killed in a fresh disturbance in Timisoara.

Attacked

One of Postelnicu's co-defendants attacked him from prison. "He was a born criminal. He informed on everyone, including us," former vice-president Manea Manescu told a criminologist in remarks published by the daily Romania Libera.

Emil Bobu, 62: As organisational chief of the Communist Party, he was number three in the regime behind the dictator and his powerful wife Elena, who was also shot by firing squad on December 25.

Bobu, short, rotund and uncouth, was known by ordinary Romanians as Ceausescu's mythic chapping which punctuated Ceausescu's interminable speeches at party meetings.

A Ceausescu intimate, he was a regular guest at the clan's drinking parties. Bobu was related to the ruling couple through his wife Maria, the last justice minister. He rose quickly through the party and was a key politico member.

Recall

Many Romanians recall his coarse way of speaking. "He seemed almost illiterate," said teacher Laurentiu Chelutiu.

Ion Diaea, 65: A first deputy prime minister with a fearsome reputation. His habit of threatening subordinates with a gun and handcuffs earned him the nickname "The League" (the tie up).

One of the few top aides who never publicly fell foul of his boss, Diaea was given the rank of lieutenant-general to spread communism through the armed forces.

He always kept an automatic weapon in his car next to the gear-lever — Ceausescu and his lieutenants invariably sat next to their drivers, apparently to promote a populist image.

Manea Manescu, 73: The odd man out because of his urbanity and advanced studies, which led him to the Bucharest University chair in economics. Courteous and well-dressed, Manescu was the regime's fig-leaf. He was prime minister between 1974-79 and was one of five vice-presidents when arrested.

Veteran

His father was a party veteran from the oil capital of Ploesti, and he joined the communists in 1936 at the age of 20. Married to Ceausescu's sister Maria, but claimed never to have been invited to the dictator's homes in the past eight years.

The only defendant to question from a criminology self-serving answers to questions from a criminology professor in Friday's Romania Libera, Manescu said he met Ceausescu in prison in 1944.

Asked if he deemed himself to have been a co-author, an accomplice, an instigator or an executor of Ceausescu's repressive policies, he replied: "An executor."

Few Romanians expect the five judges at the military tribunal to share that view.

Arabi Times



Women and children, whose houses were destroyed, take refuge in a school. (Reuters wirephoto)

Arabs, beware of Soviet intentions

AMMAN, Jan 27, (Agencies): Representative of Palestine in Moscow Nabil Amer has called on the Arabs not to depend on the "traditional and principled" relations with the Soviet Union.

In an interview with the daily "Al-Dustour", newspaper published here today, Amer said the new situation in the Soviet Union constitutes a new challenge to the Arabs, and the Palestinians in particular, that should be faced in a scientific way, or else they would lose an important step.

He warned that Israel will enter the Soviet Union through the wide potentials of economic investments available there.

Amer said the Soviet Union has changed its theory on which its foreign policy was based, and this change has entailed isolating ideology from politics and the balance of interests has replaced the balance of powers.

He said however that the Soviet Middle East policy is based on the withdrawal of Israel from all occupied territories. Implementation of Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and the right of self-determination and statehood for Palestinians.

On the immigration of Soviet Jews, the Palestinian official said it necessitates an intensive Arab and international efforts since it poses a threat to the Arab world. He said that the Soviet Union is a major factor in the Middle East peace process. He said that the Soviet Union is a major factor in the Middle East peace process.

He said that the Soviet Union is a major factor in the Middle East peace process. He said that the Soviet Union is a major factor in the Middle East peace process.

He said that the Soviet Union is a major factor in the Middle East peace process. He said that the Soviet Union is a major factor in the Middle East peace process.

He said that the Soviet Union is a major factor in the Middle East peace process. He said that the Soviet Union is a major factor in the Middle East peace process.

West briefed on Sudan

BRUSSELS, Jan 27, (Kuna): A senior Sudanese official yesterday underlined that the aim of his current tour of some West European capitals was to inform their leaders of the Khartoum government's policies for resolving the civil war in south Sudan.

Colonel Mohammad Al Amin Khalifa, member of Sudan's ruling military council and chairman of the national dialogue conference on the South Sudan dispute told Kuna today he met with senior officials of the European Parliament and briefed them on the situation in Sudan.

He said he also held talks for the same purpose with the deputy chairman of the joint co-operation commission of the European community, African, Caribbean and Pacific countries.

Col. Khalifa said he had reviewed with those officials developments in Sudan since the present government assumed power in a military coup last June and the initiatives it made regarding the settlement of the civil war in south Sudan.

Snowstorm

DAMASCUS, Jan 27, (Agencies): Syria's first snowfall of the year has blocked mountain roads around Damascus but raised hopes of a relaxation of water rationing in the capital.

Weathermen said snow in Damascus and the south would feed springs and dams whose water level fell after meagre snowfalls last year.

Snow and torrential rain were lashing Jordan's central and northern areas this morning forcing the closure of some roads between the northern cities of Erbid and Ajloun, the meteorological department said today.

Tunis sacks incompetent governor

TUNIS, Jan 27, (Reuters): A Tunisian provincial governor was replaced yesterday after crowds complaining at slow flood relief measures attacked his office and home.

State television said President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali replaced Najeh Driss, governor to central Sidi Bouzid province, with Bouabaker Ben Kraiem.

The floods in the south and centre of Tunisia earlier this week killed 25 people and 32 more were feared drowned. More than 14,000 houses were destroyed or damaged.

Some parts of the south had more than 300 mm (12 inches) of rain between last Saturday and Wednesday. In many places this was more than the average for

the whole year.

Crowds attacked Driss's office and residence on Wednesday in protest at the pace of relief operations in the province, one of nine affected by the floods, residents said.

The demonstrations were also angry over a decision to divert flood water away from Sidi Bouzid's industrial area and towards an inhabited part of the town.

The government blamed Muslim militants for the attack on the governor's office. It said they had exploited the distress of the local people at a time when the local authorities were pre-occupied with relief work.

But the main Islamic movement in Tunis said it had

nothing to do with the attacks and local residents said Muslim militants were only a minority of those who took part.

Planes and trucks arrived from abroad yesterday with food, tents, blankets and other supplies for the tens of thousands of people who lost their homes in the floods.

Three planes arrived from Egypt and one from Algeria and 24 trucks came by land from neighbouring Libya, the official news agency TAP reported.

Bernard Kouchner, French junior minister for humanitarian aid, arrived in the southern city of Sfax yesterday evening with two planes carrying about 30 tonnes of relief supplies.

Peace in Gulf urged

Saleh, De Cuellar hold talks

UNITED NATIONS, Jan 27, (Kuna): Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh said yesterday he urged Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to intensify his efforts in order to find a lasting solution to the Iraq-Iran conflict.

President Ali Saleh told Kuna the Gulf war was one of three main subjects he discussed earlier Friday with the UN chief. He said that the UN chief had expressed his confidence in the efforts of the UN Secretary-General to bring about a settlement of the conflict.

The President spoke to Kuna following a luncheon at the International Hotel in Manhattan hosted by the Exxon Corporation, the nation's largest oil company.

Discussing the Exxon luncheon, the President said the conversation with Exxon chairman

Lawrence G. Rawl centred on Exxon's investments and its co-operation with his government in the search for oil.

Saleh said he explained to the Exxon chairman Yemen's regulations on foreign investment.

"We explained to them the investment law in Yemen and told them we welcomed foreign investment," he said.

Earlier in the day, the Yemeni head of state was greeted by the secretary-general and his chief of protocol, Ali Teymour, as he arrived in his motorcade in front of the UN Secretariat building.

After a brief exchange of welcoming words, the secretary-general escorted the President and his large delegation to his

38th floor offices.

A reception in honour of the President was attended by Arab delegations, as well as the chairman of the various regional groups and the 15 members of the Security Council.

The President's itinerary also includes trips to San Francisco where some 50,000 Yemeni are living, and Dallas, Texas, where he will meet with President Bush, Secretary of State James Baker and other high officials.

During his visit there the State Department announced that the aid package to North Yemen will be raised to about \$46 million in the coming fiscal year, from \$20 million in the previous year.



Young Russian immigrant families wait at Budapest airport to board an El Al flight that will take them to begin a new life in Israel. (Reuters wirephoto)

PLO tries to stop Soviet Jews influx

TUNIS, Jan 27, (Reuters): Arab countries and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) are trying to persuade Moscow to stop the flow of Soviet Jews to Israel, senior Palestinian officials said.

A PLO official in Tunis said today that the PLO 15-member Executive Committee would meet in Tunis on Monday to discuss emigration by Soviet Jews.

Arab countries were also holding contacts in Moscow and with Soviet ambassadors in their capitals, the officials said.

"Arab states are discussing the issue with Soviet ambassadors in each Arab capital," the PLO official told Reuters.

He said Farouk Kaddoumi, the head of the PLO's political department, on Thursday discussed the issue with the Soviet ambassador in Tunis.

"Arab diplomats in Moscow have reported that the Soviet Union showed some signs that it is willing to revise the issue," he added, but did not elaborate.

To Abu Dhabi, the Al Bayan newspaper today quoted Salah Saleh, a politburo member of the radical Popular

Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), as saying the PLO was making efforts to stop the Jewish influx.

"The PLO has received information from some Soviet ambassadors in the region that Moscow is officially revising this issue," he said.

Soviet reforms have eased restrictions on Jewish emigration and Israel expects 50,000 to 100,000 immigrants to arrive this year.

Arabs in revolt against Israeli rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip staged a general strike last Thursday to protest at the flow of Soviet Jews to Israel and the occupied territories where a few hundred immigrants have joined Jewish settlers in recent months.

Palestinian dignitaries in the occupied territories on Wednesday appealed to foreign consulates of several countries in Israel to intervene to stop the Jewish emigration, the Palestinian news agency Wafa said.

"Jews coming from the Soviet Union must not settle in the occupied territories including east Jerusalem," the letter said.

Eviction of Beirut envoy stayed

WASHINGTON, Jan 27, (UPI): The State Department and the Lebanese government of Elias Hrawi lost the first battle yesterday as the factional dispute in Lebanon moved into the US court system.

US district judge Harold Greene issued a temporary restraining order that bars the US government or the Hrawi regime from evicting Abdallah Bouhabib from the Lebanese embassy in Washington.

Bouhabib, who has been ambassador in the United States since 1983, is a supporter of the regime of Gen. Michel Aoun, the Lebanese Christian Army commander who occupies the presidential residence in Beirut and refuses to recognize the Hrawi election by the Lebanese Parliament.

Bouhabib has changed the locks on the embassy's external doors and has effectively closed the embassy down by barring the entry of any other diplomats.

Bouhabib was notified in December that the US government no longer recognizes his status as ambassador and will recognize the representative of the Hrawi government.

Greene, after hearing arguments, said he was granting a 10-day injunction that would permit Bouhabib to remain in the embassy.

The State Department's lawyers argued that the US government has both the right and the obligation to hand over the embassy property to the representative of the Lebanese government. The State Department accused Bouhabib of "forcible entry" by remaining in the embassy and keeping other diplomats out.

Greene said the State Department had not given Bouhabib sufficient notice to leave the premises.

In seeking additional time to reflect on the case, Greene said the State Department failed to take into consideration that Aoun provides protection for the US embassy in Lebanon which is located in an area controlled by his forces. The American diplomats have been removed from Lebanon for their safety, but Lebanese employees continue to work there.

Greene indicated that his final ruling on the case might favor the State Department's motion, but he berated the government for failing to give Bouhabib sufficient notice of the intention to evict him.

The Hrawi government's representative, appointed earlier this month, is working out of temporary offices.

Greene said that while he could not interfere with the US government's decision to recognize Hrawi, he rejected the State Department's argument that Bouhabib had committed an "intrusion or forcible entry" into the embassy. Bouhabib has been Lebanon's ambassador since 1983, until he was removed from his job by the Hrawi government last December.

Bid to kill Beirut Shiite leader fails

Shamseddin escapes bomb blast

BEIRUT, Jan 27, (Agencies): A car bomb exploded near the home of Lebanon's highest Shiite Muslim cleric today. But the assassination attempt failed when the moving vehicle hit a mound of earth and the charge ignited too far from the target, police reported.

A police statement said an unidentified driver jumped out of the explosive-packed Renault-12 sedan as it moved into the alley toward a building housing the third-floor apartment of Sheikh Mohammed Mehdi Shamseddin in West Beirut.

The car drifted to the left, "hit a sand rampart roadblock and exploded about 150 metres (yards) from the house, causing no casualties or serious damage," said the spokesman, who cannot be named under standing rules.

Shamseddin, 55, is vice chairman of the higher Shiite Islamic council, that leads day-to-day spiritual affairs of the 1.2 million Shiite Muslims who make up Lebanon's largest sect.

Shamseddin took over after the council's chairman, Imam Moussa Sadr, mysteriously disappeared in September 1978 during a visit to Libya.

The statement said the car was rigged with 25 kilograms (55 pounds) of explosives. It exploded at about 6.30 am (0430 GMT) in the residential district of Talat Khayyat.

"Several cars parked in the area were damaged in the explosion which shattered window glass. No casualties were reported."

"The Sheikh was at home at the time of the explosion, but he was not hurt," the statement added.

No one claimed responsibility for the car bomb, the first in Lebanon this year.

By police count, 80 people were killed and 342 wounded in nine car bombings in Lebanon last year.

Security sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said they believe the car bombing attack might be an offshoot of the power struggle within the Shiite community between pro-Iranian fundamentalists of Hezbollah (Party of God) and the Syrian-backed secular Amal (Hope) militia.

Shamseddin is a moderate who sympathizes with Amal's chief Nabih Berri, who is also minister of water and hydraulic resources in the government of President Elias Hrawi and Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss.

Berri is locked in a war of words with former Iranian Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, the hardliner who founded Hezbollah when he was

ambassador to Syria in the early 1980s.

Berri, in a statement published today, accused Mohtashemi of working to "partition Lebanon's Shiite" and branded him as "the Brutus of the Islamic revolution," a reference to the assassin of Julius Caesar.

Berri was responding to charges by Mohtashemi that Amal was adopting "a policy against Hezbollah similar to that followed by Israel against the Palestinians."

Amal fighters had dynamited about 10 houses of Hezbollah

sympathisers on their tenants in south Lebanon," Mohtashemi charged in a statement released in Tehran, the Iranian capital, Thursday.

The police spokesman said Amal and Hezbollah fighters skirmished with machine guns in South Lebanon's Iqlim Al Tufah, or apple province, today, but no casualties were reported.

Saturday's explosion came a few days after President Elias Hrawi's government said it had worked out a security plan for West Beirut calling for the withdrawal of all militias.

Attack on Aoun opposed

US, France to arm Hrawi

BEIRUT, Jan 27, (Reuters): The United States and France are willing to provide weapons to Lebanese President Elias Hrawi, now preparing his troops to replace Syrian soldiers in Muslim West Beirut, officials source said yesterday.

The sources in Hrawi's government said both countries had said they opposed any attack to break the hold of defiant Christian General Michel Aoun on the Christian enclave and would provide arms only for defensive purposes.

The French and US positions were relayed to Hrawi's Finance Minister Ali Al Khalil when he visited Paris and Washington this month, the sources said.

The two nations requested details of arms needed by Hrawi's 15,000 mostly Muslim troops and officers were drawing up a list.

Washington told Khalil it would ask Paris and the Vatican, which maintain contacts with Aoun, to try to persuade him to step down peacefully, the sources added.

Syria has offered troops to topple Aoun, but Hrawi has said he will use force to evict the general only if necessary. Military experts say it may take two years to build up Hrawi's army against Aoun's better-trained and equipped forces.

The sources said Washington told Khalil it was willing to give economic aid to Lebanon but Beirut should first repay an outstanding debt of \$10 million.

Algeria, Morocco and Saudi Arabia were also "studying positively" a request from Hrawi for arms, the sources said.

The three Arab states, which brokered a ceasefire which last September ended six months of shelling in Beirut, were also considering giving financial aid, the sources said.

Reports of possible western and Arab help to Hrawi followed Thursday's approval by his cabinet of a plan for the army and police to replace Syrian troops in key West Beirut positions.

Sentencing postponed

A Swedish and a Canadian convicted in a plot to export arms illegally to Iran has been postponed pending an investigation into allegations that one of them plotted to kill a federal agent.

During a sentencing hearing on Thursday, assistant US Attorney Robert Berg told US district judge Hayden W. Head Jr of an alleged plot by Swedish businessman Karl Erik Nissen to kill the federal agent who arrested him.

Nissen's sentencing was rescheduled for Feb. 26, (AP)

Suspects to go on trial: The men accused of killing 12 people and injuring hundreds more in France during a nine-month bombing campaign in 1986 appear in court on Monday on terrorism charges. (Reuters)

Split widens: A split between hardliners and reformers in Cyprus' politically powerful Communist Party, Akel, widened with the reported resignation on Saturday of seven members from the party's 40-member central committee. (AP)

Border patrol fired: Unidentified gunmen fired at a Turkish military patrol from across the Syrian border but no one was hit, the semi-official Anatolian news agency said on Saturday.

It said four men in a pick-up truck fired at the patrol near the border town of Oguzeli in Gaziantep province, southeast of Ankara, late on Friday. (Reuters)

Escorted back

Two Syrian intelligence security men escort Lebanon's Ali Mustafa Berri, 23, who arrived in Beirut airport after he was deported from Spain. Berri, who flew to Beirut with two Spanish security men said he was expelled from Madrid because he did not have a residence permit. (Reuters wirephoto)

Abdullah for Athens: Head of the Palestinian information office in Ottawa Abdullah Abdullah will leave for Athens next month to take up his new post as the ambassador of the state of Palestine.

Director of the Palestinian office in Washington Hassan Abdulrahman will replace Abdullah who has been head of the Ottawa office for the past 17 years. (Kuna)

30 soldiers killed: Somali rebels said on Saturday they killed 30 government soldiers and wounded 33 in two separate attacks near the port of Berbera earlier this month.

The clandestine radio of the Somali National Movement (SNM), said rebels staged an ambush near Darangodih, south of Berbera, killing 15 soldiers and injuring 15.

In another attack nearby, the rebels said they killed 15 soldiers and wounded 18. (Reuters)

Israeli threat: Israeli officials have threatened Arab public transport companies in East Jerusalem that their vehicle licenses would be withdrawn if they continue to honour a strike called by the Palestinian infitda leadership, an Israeli news report said on Saturday. (Kuna)

Hunger strike ends: A plea from Iranian leaders persuaded jailed Lebanese Anis Naccache to end a hunger strike that had strained relations between France and Iran, his lawyer said on Saturday.

Jacques Verges told Reuters Naccache's mother visited him on Friday and passed on a message from Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani asking him to end the five-month fast. (Reuters)

Review of black list: Arab and Islamic groups trying to isolate Israel economically will review the status of companies on their black list at a meeting in Damascus, officials from the groups said on Saturday.

Quran in comics sacrilegious

RABAT, Jan 27, (Reuters): Muslim theologians in Morocco said today the publication of a comic-strip version of the Holy Quran was sacrilegious.

The Moroccan League of Ulama appealed to booksellers to boycott the book and called on the authorities to "take appropriate measures to spare the country this heresy."

In a statement published by the pro-government daily Le Matin, the theologians said the

comic-strip Quran was "a sacrilegious and absurd act, a deformation of the holy book's verses, and an attack on the inviolability of the Holy Prophet Mohammed (PBUH)."

Tunisia's Mufti, Sheikh Mohammed Mokhtar Al Salami, urged parents last week to keep the book, "Tell Me a Story From the Quran," away from their children. Tunisia's supreme Islamic council and a Kuwaiti theologian have also condemned it.

Red Cross to resume flights to war-torn southern Sudan

NAIROBI, Jan 27, (AP): The International Committee of the Red Cross plans to resume flights to war-torn southern Sudan next week, a senior official said yesterday.

"We have filed our flight plans with both the rebels and the government and hope to begin our flights on Monday," said Dominique Buft, head of the ICRC in Kenya.

The decision follows an announcement on Wednesday by the government of Sudan that the ICRC could airlift emergency food and medical supplies to both government and rebel-controlled areas.

Radio since November

"Of course we are hoping to negotiate a more regular schedule," Buft said. "Otherwise it is of no use putting people on the ground and telling them 'we'll see you in three months time'."

Sudanese authorities suspended relief flights in November saying they wanted to guarantee the safety of relief workers after the collapse of a ceasefire between the government and rebel forces.

Information Minister Ali Shummo said on Wednesday relief agencies other than ICRC would be permitted to ferry 5,000 tonnes of food from Nairobi to Juba, but

not to rebel-held areas

Bob Koopp, co-ordinator of World Lutheran Federation activities in southern Sudan, said he planned to add "in a few days" two Hercules C-130 cargo aircraft to a leased Sudan Airways Boeing 707 that has been ferrying food from Nairobi to Juba since November.

Koopp said the Lutherans can deliver 30 tonnes daily, making two trips a day.

The International Red Cross launched a campaign yesterday to raise \$19 million for famine relief, warning that millions of Ethiopians face starvation and death.



The rector presenting a gift to Dr Al Najjar.



Dr Rasha Al Sabah



Some of the attending doctors.



Some of the Language centre's teachers.



Language centre honours Dr Balqees Al Najjar

DR SHUAIB ABDULLAH SHUAIB, the rector of Kuwait University attended the Language Centre's party, which was held to honour Dr Balqees Al Najjar, the previous director of the centre. The party was held at the University Club in Shurwaikh.

The party was also attended by Dr Rasha Al Sabah, Assistant University Director for Society Service and Information; Dr Husain Al

Mahmoud, the university's General Secretary and a number of the centre's teachers.

Dr Ilham Al Bassam praised the efforts exerted by Dr Balqees in developing the centre services through her directing years. Dr Balqees was presented a symbolic award on behalf of the university staff by the

university rector.

A speech was also delivered by Dr Rasha Al Sabah who praised Dr Balqees' efforts towards upgrading the centre level.

At the end Dr Balqees delivered a speech in which she expressed happiness towards the centre's educational levels and services and thanked attendants for their participation.

KTV 1

MORNING PERIOD

9.30 Opening and Holy Quran
9.40 Sabah Al Kher. news
9.50 Cartoon serial
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.30 Ghoraha Fi Al Madeena: Arabic serial (part 2)
11.45 That's Incredible: foreign variety programme
12.25 News summary
12.30 Holy Quran and closedown

EVENING PERIOD

4.00 Opening and Holy Quran
4.15 The World Today via Satellite
4.45 Beren: cartoon serial
5.15 Cartoons
5.45 Night chemists, air-locks and official advertisements
6.00 Al Fareso Al Asheq: historical serial (part 9)
7.00 Varieties
7.15 You and Your Health: Local programme, prepared by Ghazi Al Khayyat and presented by Dr Rashed Al Owaisi
7.45 Diwanat Shura Al Nabat: local programme
8.30 Good Evening and local news
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Al Laaboon Fi Al Narr: Arabic serial (part 6)
10.45 Al Sahwa: Arabic late night feature, starring Ahmad Al Saleh, Aisha Ibrahim, Abdul Aziz Al Haddad
12.00 News summary
12.05 The World Today via Satellite
12.30 Holy Quran and closedown

KTV 2

MORNING PERIOD

6.10 The New Three Stooges. A cartoon series for children
6.30 The Beachcombers "Fool's Errand". A woman hires Nick and the Persphooes to search for her missing husband. The expedition is complicated by Nick's fatal love affair.
7.00 Earth. A look at gases formed by pollutants and their effect on water resources... Explosion of world population. Disappearance of certain animal species.
8.00 News in English
8.30 Wildside. "Don't Keep Home Fires Burning". A gang attacks farmers burning their barns and houses and looting their cattle. The chamber of commerce under Sutton's leadership have to stop them.
9.30 Coach. "Parent's Weekend". Hyden spends his weekend holiday with his girlfriend Christine where he gives a false impression about his ex-wife Christine meets her by chance.
10.00 Q.E.D. "The Mystery of Fear". Weeping and its causes... Sadness and unexpected surprises... Outside effects on emotions... A study on tears and weeping...
10.30 Bestseller. "Around the World in 80 Days". Mr Fog reaches India where he saves the Maharaja's wife and both run away to Calcutta.
12.00 News in Arabic
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

EVENING PERIOD

6.00 Opening and Holy Quran
6.15 The World Today via Satellite
6.45 Beren: cartoon serial
7.15 Cartoons
7.45 Night chemists, air-locks and official advertisements
8.00 Al Fareso Al Asheq: historical serial (part 9)
9.00 Varieties
9.15 You and Your Health: Local programme, prepared by Ghazi Al Khayyat and presented by Dr Rashed Al Owaisi
9.45 Diwanat Shura Al Nabat: local programme
10.30 Good Evening and local news
11.00 News in Arabic
11.45 Al Laaboon Fi Al Narr: Arabic serial (part 6)
12.45 Al Sahwa: Arabic late night feature, starring Ahmad Al Saleh, Aisha Ibrahim, Abdul Aziz Al Haddad
1.00 News summary
1.05 The World Today via Satellite
1.30 Holy Quran and closedown

PRAYERS

Fajr 5.18 am
Zohr 12.01
Asr 3.02 pm
Maghreb 5.22
Isha 6.42

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Tribal Rugs & Oriental Prints
THE Sultan Gallery extended their Tribal Rugs and Oriental Prints exhibition until Jan 31. The gallery is open from 9.30 am to 12.30 noon and 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm. For more information contact: 2421951.

Seminar
THE seminar at the DAA, on Arabic and European Art in The Light of Zodiacal Symbolism has been postponed. It will be given during the period Feb 11 - March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am or evening sessions on Sunday and Tuesday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Registration may be made by phoning the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah, Tel: 2430826, 2453259.

SOCIAL

Bar-B-Q
IAC is organising its first Bar-B-Q night with the Octave group. Programmes start at 7 pm including music, dance, games, and vegetarian and non-vegetarian bar-b-q. Entries are restricted by passes only. For details contact Sharma at 2644863, Sunny at 4343329, Jacob 4319549, George 4735972.

Raga Sharqi
INTENSIVE courses (January and February) in Raga Sharqi, the classical dance form of the Middle East. For details call 4836021.

Konkani drama

THE New Goans Overseas Association is pleased to announce Menino De Bandar's "Sonsarant Astana Diat" a Konkani play which will be held in the Indian Arts Circle (Fumaites) on 16th February 1990. The cast all from Goa includes M. Boyer, Felcy, Josephine, Betty Alvares, Tita, Junior Rod, Carlos, Rosario Dias, C. D'Silva, John de Parra and Menino de Bandar. Tickets now available at Canary Video (Sharq) and Video Clock (near G.P.O.). Rush for tickets, one show only.

Saz aur Aawaz
SAAZ aur Aawaz which is one of the leading Indian musical groups with complete orchestra presents their fourth musical programme entitled "Bhule Bisre Geet" covering hit songs of yesteryears at the Indian Arts Circle, Fumaites on Friday, Feb 2, 1990 at 6 pm. There will also be lucky draw prizes. For Passes call 3985456/3610224/5638026 after 4 pm.

NRI Forum lecture on Taxation and Investments
NRI Investors Forum is holding a lecture session at Indian Embassy on Tuesday, the 30th January at 7.30 pm. The meeting would be addressed by a visiting expert from India. All Indians are welcome.

Hobby centre
A NEW 5 week course in Jewellery and Design making. For more details call: Telephone: 5618847 or 5317354.

Annual one act Play Competition

INDIAN Arts Circle announces the II Annual One Play Competition to be held during Eid holidays in April, 1990. The competition is open to Plays in any Indian language including English. Awards shall include Best Play (1st, 2nd & 3rd), best Director, Best Actor & Actress, Best Child Actor, Best Stage Setting and Best Acting Performance from each team. Registration form with rules & regulations are available from Indian Arts Circle office at Fumaites. Last date of submitting registration form with required details is 28th February, 1990. Please contact IAC office (Tel. 3904817) for further details. All Indian associations engaged in theatrical activities are requested to join.

Like a Hurricane
SEVENTH Sky's Rock Concert at Al Andalus Cinema on 15th & 16th Feb '90. Featuring Rock, Pop/Rock and Rock 'n' Roll from the 80's. For information and reservation call 5730265/2543219.

Caledonian Society
The Annual Burns Night Supper will be held at Messiah Beach Hotel on Thursday, February 1st. For further information and ticket reservation phone: 5335082, 5332235 or 3727691 ext. 253.

Carnival Fiesta '90
YMCA/Incredible S.C. are proud to announce their Carnival Fiesta '90 at Messiah Beach Hotel (Habiba) on Feb 22, '90.

Non-stop dancing from 8.30 pm onwards to the beat of latest sensation "Hurricane Alley" and "Neighbour".

Highlights: Best Carnival couple (fancy) and many many surprises. For details contact the organisers on Tel. 2450279 (between 8 am to 1 pm) or Tel. 3921712.

The Carnival Nite (By the Entertainers)
IN the arena of entertainment 'The Entertainers' welcomes all to witness their 'Carnival Nite' at the Ramada Salam Hotel's (Le Mirage Ballroom) on the 22nd February (Thursday) 1990 commencing from 9:00 pm onwards.

Special highlights will be: Parade by King Momo. Crowning of Carnival Queen by King Momo. Samba dance competition and group prizes, and many more to be announced.

Music will be specially created for this occasion to be performed by "Top Ranks" & "Perfect Strangers" be there as its "Viva la Carnival".

Soviet Ballet

STARS of the Soviet Ballet, featuring the Russian Ballet Company of Moscow will be touring Kuwait on February 2 and 3. They will perform 130 minute shows at Al Andalus Cinema, Hawalli. On Friday, Feb 2, the show will start at 6.00 pm. On Saturday, Feb 3, it will start at 8.00 pm. Tickets will be on sale starting Thursday 10.00 am to 8.00 pm, Friday throughout the day and during the following week at the box office.

Ladies International League
LIL newcomers coffee morning will be held on Monday 29 January from 10 am to 12 noon at the Sheraton Hotel. Newcomers to Kuwait and LIL are most welcome. For more information call Ano oo 5316905.

Kalpak's Drama Competition
KERALA Arts and Literature Promotion Association of Kuwait (Kalpak) is conducting a Malayalam One Act Play Competition at Indian Arts Circle on 9th February 1990.

Ladies International League
YOU are invited to attend the next general meeting on Monday, February 5, Sheraton Ballroom A. Our programme will be presented by Claude Maxime. Everyone welcome! Doors open 6 pm, programme begins at 7 pm promptly! Door charge.

Samarpan discussion
SAMARPAN presents Rajesh Dhruv, an expert on investment and taxation from Gujarat, who will address the Gujarati-speaking community, in Gujarati language, on Monday, Jan 29, at 9 pm at the Indian Embassy Hall. All Gujarati-speakers are welcome.

SPORTS

Now at the MBH Sports Centre
Life saving course, with Royal Life Saving Society Coach, Grade I Examiner will be commencing shortly.

Ergocycle Fitness Computer tests and courses now available at Messiah.

Jazzercise/Aerobics/Staying power/Yoga and Ballet exercise classes also available.

Tivim Centre
"TIVIM Centre is pleased to announce their 3rd Annual 9-a-side Inter Village Football Tournament which will be held on the Sour grounds, Kuwait City, beginning March 27/28th 1990. For further information please contact organisers - 2441860 Casimiro."

Ballet
STEPS Ballet School commences its new term. Jan 1990 registration is now open Sat-Wed in the Kuwait English School, Salwa from 3-7 pm.

Call 5386481, between 9.42 noon for more information. (For girls only 4-15 years).

Bhutto Cup
KUWAIT Cricket League is organising a cricket match between the teams of Indian and Pakistani veterans living in Kuwait, at K.C.L. ground on 2nd February 1990. The match will start at 9 am.

Kuwait Cricket takes this opportunity and announce that a lucky draw will be held with at least fifty prizes which includes colour TV, VCR, sewing machine, watches, cameras and many more household items are waiting for the winners. All are cordially invited. For further information please call, tel. 5332052 S. Rizvi.

Daniella Tennis 1990

Daniella organises again this year a tennis tournament for Dances. You can participate in ladies singles, men's singles and "social doubles". All Danish tennis players are welcome. Both beginners and more experienced. For further details and registration please call Carsten - 2402698 (office) or 3710215 ext. 27 (private) before Friday, Feb 2.

HOTELS

At the Holiday Inn Health Club and Recreation Centre
SWIMMING lessons available all year round with qualified swimming instructors. Open to ooo-members. Mon-Tues-Wed 3:30 to 5:30. Beginners-improvers-adults mixed keep fit classes. Wed 5-6 Thurs 6-7, Fri 12-1:00 and 1-2:00, Sat 5-6:00. Ladies keep fit, Mon 5-6, Tues 5-6, Fri 5-6 and Sun 5:30-6:30. Martial arts w/black belt instructor Moo-Wed 6, Taekwondo Sat-Mon, 7-8 Thurs 5-6. Bowling alley available for private company and community tournaments. Five squash courts. Squash handicap every Sunday start 6 pm - all standards, open to ooo-members. Squash coaching available from professional coach everyday, from 1 pm. Massage for men and women; gym facilities for men and women; tennis courts - coaching available. Plus lots more. Phone for further details - Recreation Manager. 4742000 ext 6788 Julie Drax 6700 recreation.

Japan film festival

"The Time Traveller" will be screened at 7.30 pm at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry auditorium. It is directed by Nobuhiko Obayashi and is a 1983 production.

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus Arabic film Sahmiah
Hall Booked
Al Hamra
Nowhere to Hide
Drive In
Al Firdous
Big Business



Students visit the science club

Student delegations representing Fintas Secondary School for Girls, Ghornata Intermediate School for Girls, Um Al Qura Intermediate School for Girls, and Al Muthanna Primary School for Boys visited the Scientific Club and toured the Astronomy and Meteorological Exhibition and Al Ojair Observatory.



PPYA help late labourer's family

The Pakistan People's Youth Association yesterday presented a cheque of Rs10,000 for the bereaved family of a Pakistani labourer who died from a heart attack recently while working on a building site in Salmiyah. The picture shows the association's president, Syed Saleem Abbas Raza presenting the draft to the Pakistan Ambassador in Kuwait, Zahid Saeed.

Minister welcomes overseas investment

NICOSIA, Cyprus, Jan 27 (AP): Iran welcomes foreign investment, especially if it helps increase industrial exports, an Iranian official told a visiting West German envoy today.

The Islamic Republic News Agency, monitored in Cyprus, quoted Deputy Finance Minister Mahdi Navvab as saying Iran's policies provided grounds for mutual co-operation with foreign companies.

Navvab said foreigners were legally free to invest in joint ventures with Iranian partners as long as the foreign stake in each project did not exceed 49 per cent.

His remarks were in line with the line advocated by President Hashemi Rafsanjani, who is seeking to draw Iran out of its isolation and rebuild its war-shattered economy.

The statement by Navvab provided further buttressing for Rafsanjani's policy against the so-called radicals in Tehran, who oppose foreign investment on principle.

The Iranian agency quoted the visiting West German Economics Minister, Peter Vaon Wuerzen, as saying German companies and banks were prepared to finance projects in Iran.

Wuerzen added that the Bonn government foresaw special benefits for its short and medium-term transactions with Iran, the agency quoted him as saying. It did not elaborate.

The visiting official also expressed West Germany's readiness to increase its non-oil imports from Iran, Iran reported.

Parliament earlier this month approved Rafsanjani's \$112 billion five-year plan designed to rebuild the country's heavily damaged infrastructure and boost non-oil industries.

The package was passed only after Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei sternly warned the radicals that they must fall into line with the president.

Bush unveils aid plan for Panama

WASHINGTON, Jan 27 (UPI): President Bush proposed a \$1 billion aid package yesterday to help rebuild battle-scarred Panama and its crippled economy in the aftermath of the US invasion that toppled Gen. Manuel Noriega from power.

"The economic challenges that Panama faces are great," Bush said in announcing the Panama initiative at a White House news conference, "but we will work with the people to build a prosperous democratic nation."

Vowing to work with Congress "to ensure its prompt implementation," Bush said the plan would provide about \$500 million in humanitarian assistance and an additional \$500 million for public investment and economic restructuring.

Estimates of the total amount of foreign assistance Panama will need to place its economy back on track go as high as \$2 billion. A joint US-Panamanian task force estimated the costs from the US invasion alone at \$600 million.

The plan, comprising direct aid — some of it drawn from other US aid programmes — as well as loans, loan guarantees and export incentives, was announced on the eve of a five-day meeting and show-the-flag trip by Vice President Dan Quayle to Honduras, Panama and Jamaica.

Its combination of cash, credits and trade benefits to jump-start the Panamanian economy reflects US budget realities at a time when a wave of democracy in the East bloc and other developing countries is increasing competition for US economic assistance.

Syrian well flows average 6,800 bpd oil

BRUSSELS, Jan 27 (Reuters): Belgium's Petrofina said today an exploration well in which it has a share in eastern Syria had struck oil on the edge of the Euphrates valley.

Four production tests drilled at a well depth of between 1,950 and 2,060 metres flowed an average of 6,800 barrels per day (bpd), Petrofina said in a statement.

The exploration block, called Al-Bishri and covering 9,330 square km, is operated by Total Syria, of France's Compagnie Francaise des Petroles, with a 60 per cent share.

Petrofina has 20 per cent and London and Scottish Marine Oil (Lanset) the remainder.

A Petrofina spokesman was unable to give the size of the reserves, but said further appraisal wells would be drilled.

He said it was the first strike in the area. The crude was relatively heavy, with an API of between 15 and 20 degrees.

World's largest McDonald's opens in Moscow on Wednesday

MOSCOW, Jan 27 (AP): The McDonald's that opens next week in Moscow isn't just another link in a globe-spanning chain of hamburger joints. It's an object lesson in capitalism and consumerism.

When the world's largest McDonald's opens on Wednesday, it will offer more than 15,000 Soviets a day a first-hand look at the efficiency and cleanliness for which the chain is known, but which are practically unknown in the Soviet Union.

"We're supposed to smile all the time," people will think we've gone loco," said 18-year-old Oleg Mukhin, laughing as he relished the idea after spending several days being trained in such strange Western ideas as greeting customers and saying, "thank you."

Pedestrians have been peering past the construction fence for weeks at the trademark "Golden Arches" glowing through the mid-winter gloom over Pushkin Square, the city's favourite spot for political protests.

More unfamiliar sights await inside: fresh-faced students rushing about behind the counter in a country where teens rarely work, bright lights in a city that still seems mired in war-time black-out rules, even artificial candlelight.

The idea of bringing McDonald's to Moscow predates Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev's rise to power, but it was his encouragement of warmer East-

West relations, foreign investment and modernisation that made it possible.

"What's changed?" in the five years of Gorbachev's reforms, Mukhin said. "Well, glasnost. I can talk to you," he told a foreign reporter. "And co-ops. But they're not for regular people," since most of the small private businesses spawned by perestroika charge as much as a week's pay for a meal.

If all goes well, McDonald's will show Soviets they don't have to subsist on greasy rice garish on a plate of fat slopped on a filthy cafeteria. McDonald's, says a dazed Mukhin, "is for people to see how it's possible to live."

It also may teach Mukhin something he figures he needs to know for his future.

"We have perestroika now, but we could go either way — to Stalinism or to capitalism," he said. "Where else can you study capitalism and get paid for it?"

Unlike nearly every other foreign firm that has descended on Moscow since the cold war wound down, McDonald's will be for Soviet citizens, not just privileged foreigners with hard currency.

Let's put a sign right here: for rubles only," said George Cohon, chairman of McDonald's of Canada and the man behind this 14-year quest, as he stepped through the last-minute clamour, "just like the ones they

have on the dollar stores that say, "for foreign currency only."

McDonald's of Canada says it spent \$50 million to enter the Soviet market, building not just a restaurant but its own dairy, bakery, sauce kitchens and meat-processing plant to ensure steady supplies, primarily from Soviet sources.

Cohon said Soviets will pay roughly three roubles — about two hours' pay for an average Soviet worker or a starting McDonald's employee — for a famous "Big Mac" sandwich. For foreign tourists, that's cheap: about 50 cents at the special tourist exchange rate, \$5 at the official commercial rate.

But even the king of the fast-food franchises can't promise Muscovites a quick bite to eat. Police Maj. Gen. Nikolai Myrikov stopped by this week to plan crowd control for a line expected to stretch a two-minute dash for a burger into two hours.

Still, it will be a "real" line in Soviet parlance — one that moves, as opposed to the dozens that just keep people waiting forever, such as the 17-year wait for a phone. As the highest McDonald's in the world, it can serve 1,250 people an hour.

A second McDonald's, out of 20 that are planned, will take only hard currency and cater to a foreign community that would rather pay extra than stand in line.

The hamburger chain also will give hundreds of impressionable

young people unique experience in the management and sales techniques of the foreigners not long denigrated as capitalist devils.

Don't ask the customer if he or she wants a large or a small drink, a youthful Soviet crew chief tells his trainees. Say, "large!" to encourage greater spending, he explains.

Everyone learns every job in the store, something that would boggle Aeroflot airline cashiers, who are incapable of quoting a price on a flight because their only job is accepting money.

"If I want to take a screwdriver from the storeroom, I don't need six papers and five signatures," marveled dairy manager Alexander Omenchenko.

It is people like Omenchenko who will make or break McDonald's. This is a country where the greatest consideration in taking a job is often not the salary but the opportunity for theft and bribe-taking.

Yet Cohon said his staff say they have managed to find the best after an advertisement in a Moscow newspaper swamped the local post office with 25,000 applications for 600 jobs.

Even Soviet Premier Nikolai Ryzhkov, Cohon said, was astounded when told of this at a reception for visiting Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. Ryzhkov said, "Maybe no one



A Soviet militiaman looks at the menu of the McDonald's restaurant in Moscow yesterday, four days before the opening. (Reuters wirephoto)

ever ran an ad before," Cohon reported.

Still, purchasing manager Vladimir Boras, a veteran of McDonald's first venture into the Communist world, in Yugoslavia, predicted 240 of these 600 young people will quit

within a month when faced with the capitalist concept of hard work and the endless lines of hungry customers expected to turn every minute into the rush hour.

Despite the 12-hour days Omenchenko is putting in just prior to opening, he's glad he made the switch from his old, dead-end job in a scientific institute.

"I want to see modern technology," he said, "and I want to show myself. I want to see what I can do."

Alshall stock price indices

Market turns mixed

THE Alshall index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday Jan 24, 1990 an average of 39.05 points with a decrease of 0.14 point — 0.36 per cent — from last week's average of Wednesday Jan 17, 1990. The Alshall index for non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies reached 67.43 points with an increase of 1.19 point — 1.80 per cent — for the same period, according to Alshall weekly market review.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 15.20 million shares at a daily average of 3.04 million shares with a decrease of 3 per cent from the previous week's daily average of 3.13 million shares.

Non-Kuwaiti traded shares reached 8.70 million shares at a daily average of 1.74 million shares with an increase of 14 per cent over last week's daily average of 1.527 million shares. The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD5.80 million at a daily average of KD1.16 million, an increase of 41 per cent over last week's daily average of 0.82 million.

The value of non-Kuwaiti traded shares was KD0.290 million at a daily average of 0.058 KD million, an increase of 35 per cent over last week's daily average of KD0.089 million.

For the Kuwaiti shares market, the banking sector came first at 59 per cent of total trading against 36 per cent last week. The National Bank of Kuwait had the lead at 31 per cent, followed by The Gulf Bank at 22 per cent and Kuwait Finance House at 16 per cent.

The Investment Sector came second at 33 per cent, in which, Coast Investment and Development Company had the lead at 50 per cent, followed by International financial advisers at 22 per cent and Kuwait International Investment Company at 14 per cent.

The industrial sector came third at 4 per cent, in which, the National Industries had the lead at 97 per cent, followed by Gulf Cables at 30 per cent. As for the non-Kuwaiti shares market, Arabian General Investment Company (SHUAA) had the lead at 87 per cent, followed by Bahrain International Bank at 11 per cent and Bahrain Middle East Bank and by Bahrain Projects at 1 per cent each.

The market showed signs of mixed performance which was reflected in both markets but was more inclined to the weak side. This came as a response to the distribution of dividends which were declared last week and which conformed to what was expected.

In the non-Kuwaiti shares market only one company — Bahrain International Bank — declared 7 per cent of companies that have declared their dividends, declared cash dividends while only two companies declared both cash and stock dividends.

| Kuwait shareholding companies index | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Wed. 24/01/90 | Wed. 17/01/90 | Change points |
| Banking Sector | | | |
| The National Bk | 121.52 | 121.52 | |
| The Gulf Bk | 29.70 | 31.48 | -1.77 |
| The Comm. Bk | 23.71 | 23.71 | |
| Al Ahli Bk | 32.80 | 33.30 | -0.50 |
| Bk of Kt & ME | 30.97 | 30.03 | 0.94 |
| Kuwait R. Est. Bk | 28.29 | 27.86 | 0.43 |
| Burgan Bk | 25.81 | 25.81 | |

| | | | |
|-------------------|--------|--------|-------|
| Kt Finance House | 74.98 | 75.80 | -0.82 |
| Secor Index | 47.67 | 47.92 | -0.25 |
| Inv. Sector | | | |
| Kuwait Inv. Co. | 9.55 | 9.37 | 0.18 |
| Kt. Int. Inv. Co. | 8.59 | 8.93 | -0.34 |
| IFA | 28.31 | 26.76 | 1.54 |
| Comm. Facilities | 151.25 | 151.25 | |
| National Inv. | 57.84 | 57.84 | |
| Kt. Inv. Proj. | 89.89 | 89.89 | |
| Coast Inv. & Dev. | 94.12 | 95.29 | -1.17 |
| Secor Index | 32.78 | 32.76 | 0.02 |

| | | | |
|----------------|-------|-------|--|
| Ind. Sector | | | |
| Kt. Ins. Co. | 35.88 | 35.88 | |
| Gulf Ins. Co. | 23.08 | 23.08 | |
| Al Ahlia Ins. | 50.84 | 50.84 | |
| Warba Ins. Co. | 50.69 | 50.69 | |
| Secor Index | 35.74 | 35.74 | |

| | | | |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Real Est. Sec. | | | |
| Kt. Real Est. | 15.04 | 15.04 | |
| Und. Realty | 5.10 | 5.04 | 0.06 |
| Nat. Real Est. | 39.42 | 39.42 | |
| Pearl of Kt. | 63.49 | 67.46 | -3.97 |
| Secor Index | 18.99 | 18.19 | 0.20 |

| | | | |
|--------------|--------|--------|------|
| Ind. Sector | | | |
| Kt. Cmt. Co. | 11.45 | 11.45 | |
| Ref. Ind. | 84.55 | 84.55 | |
| Gulf Cables | 117.65 | 116.52 | 1.13 |
| Kt. Pharm. | 60.44 | 60.44 | |
| Secor Index | 30.37 | 30.24 | 0.13 |

| | | | |
|------------------|--------|--------|-------|
| Services Sector | | | |
| Kt. Cmptr. Co. | 151.20 | 151.20 | |
| Kt. Cinema Co. | 9.51 | 9.51 | |
| Pub. W'house Co. | 60.61 | 60.61 | |
| Kt. Comm. M. Co. | 34.07 | 34.53 | -0.46 |
| M. Tele. Syst. | 328.57 | 323.81 | 4.76 |
| Secor Index | 57.78 | 57.34 | 0.44 |

| | | | |
|--------------------|--------|--------|--|
| Food Sector | | | |
| L. Trad. & Transp. | 29.29 | 29.29 | |
| Utd Fisheries | 11.05 | 11.05 | |
| Kt. Utd Poultry | 110.01 | 110.01 | |
| Kt. Food Co. | 74.71 | 74.71 | |
| Secor Index | 38.68 | 38.68 | |

| | | | |
|---------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Overall Index | 39.05 | 38.19 | -0.14 |
|---------------|-------|-------|-------|

| Non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies index | | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Wed. 24/01/90 | Wed. 17/01/90 | Change points |
| First G. Bk. | 236.84 | 236.84 | |
| Bah. Intl. Bk. | 91.03 | 89.66 | 1.38 |
| Bah. M.E. Bk. | 93.97 | 92.07 | 1.90 |
| A. Gen. Inv. (Shua) | 43.94 | 42.42 | 1.52 |
| Umm Al Q. Cmt. | 17.25 | 17.25 | |
| G. Med. Projs. | 13.13 | 12.63 | 0.51 |
| Total Index | 87.43 | 86.24 | 1.19 |

—Based period 31/12/1983.
—All the companies listed by the Stock Exchange under non-Kuwaiti companies are included.

Jordan's airline to sign Airbus deal

Plans to cut costs to cure financial ills

AMMAN, Jan 27 (Reuters): Jordan's national airline, due to seal a contract for six Airbus A-320 planes today, plans to slash costs to cure its financial ills, airline sources say.

"The signs are that Royal Jordanian (RJ) is contracting drastically to get back to profit," one source said.

The changes follow last year's resignation of Ali Ghannouchi, the airline's long-serving head. Ghannouchi, now a special adviser to King Hussein, was replaced by Khalidom Abu Hassan as chairman and Husam Abu Ghazaleh as chief executive.

Abu Hassan was in Paris on Friday to sign a 12-year lease for the new Airbus, worth at least \$200 million, with a bank consortium led by Banque Indosuez.

The Jordanian government has guaranteed part of the agreement and part is on commercial terms, RJ sources said.

The state-owned airline, which has already leased six Airbus A-310s, will take delivery of the first A-320 next month. Two more are due to arrive this year and the others in 1991.

The airline hopes to release its 1988 and 1989 results next month once the cabinet has approved them and the restructuring plan. Last year's results, helped by the sale of a Boeing 747, were expected to look markedly better.

Bankers said the 1988 loss included an operating loss of about 20 million dinars (\$53 million). The rest was due to accounting changes which gave a more accurate picture of the airline's financial position than previously revealed.

It was not clear whether the government, itself struggling to reduce its budget deficit, will offer any assistance to the airline.

Airline sources said RJ aimed to cut current spending by 20 per cent by axing unprofitable routes and refinancing or rescheduling debts. No figures were available on the debts.

From April 1, the airline plans to stop flying to Chicago, Copenhagen, Bucharest, New Delhi and Calcutta and to fly less often to Larnaca, Damascus, Bangkok and Singapore, the sources said.

Transatlantic flights will be cut to four a week from a peak of 17 in the past. Last year the airline stopped flights to Miami and Los Angeles. Previously it had 17 planes flying to 46 cities.

It is seeking to enter more code-sharing agreements with foreign airlines, such as one re-

ched this month with British Airways, which will halt flights to Jordan in March.

To match the smaller route network, the company will also cut back the number of its aircraft, the sources said.

It hopes to sell a Lockheed TriStar for up to \$34 million and may lease out one of the new A-320s. Altogether it hopes to lease three planes to foreign airlines this year.

The TriStar is the last aircraft RJ actually owns. It has either sold outright or leased back the rest of its fleet.

Bankers say the capital gains realised by RJ in the strong world market for used aircraft helped to offset past operating losses and a chronic cash flow problem.

Statoil sees '90 drop in prices

NEW YORK, Jan 27 (UPI): Norway's state-owned oil company yesterday said operating profits nearly doubled to \$1.5 billion in 1989 largely because of higher crude prices, which are expected to nosedive in 1990 as a result of overproduction by the Opec oil organisation.

Harald Norvik, president and chairman of Norway's Statoil Group, said Statoil's budget is forecasting that the European benchmark North Sea Brent crude, which has been selling recently at more than \$20 a barrel, will average \$16.80 a barrel in 1990 compared to a 1989 average of \$19.

Following a speech to the Norwegian American Chamber of Commerce, Norvik said although demand for oil is increasing "more than expected in many parts of the world," the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries has the capacity to produce even more than it does today.

"That is the main element in this picture. That is why there is uncertainty more than the expectation of high prices," he said.

He said the outlook is for alternating rapid increases followed by quick drops in crude prices. "In 1990 and many years after, there will be rapid increases and the opposite in oil prices."

Because of the projected lower crude prices, Statoil will have a "good" year in 1990 in terms of profits but not necessarily as good as 1989, Norvik said.

His price comments echoed those made in November by Pete Silas, chairman of Phillips Petroleum Co. Silas said the price of the US benchmark West Texas Intermediate crude, which has been running near \$23 a barrel recently, will average about \$18.50 in 1990, the same as 1989's overall average.

Norvik said Statoil profits will get some help in 1990 because Norway, which clamped a lid on output following the 1986 world price collapse, has raised daily production by 200,000 barrels to 1.7 million barrels.

Exxon earnings plunge

NEW YORK, Jan 27 (AP): Exxon Corp's fourth-quarter profits plunged more than 40 per cent because of huge costs of cleaning up its Alaska oil spill, which by year's end totalled nearly \$2 billion, the oil giant said yesterday.

Exxon said it took a \$500 million provision against fourth-quarter earnings to cover its estimated out-of-pocket expenses for the spill.

That provision is on top of charges totalling \$880 million in the first and second quarters and \$400 million in insurance proceeds that Exxon said it expected to have available to help pay for spill-related cleanup costs.

In the three months ended Dec 31, Exxon said its net earnings were \$755 million, or 61 cents a share, down 43 per cent from \$1.4 billion, or \$1.06 a share, in the comparable 1988 period. Revenue rose 15 per cent to \$26.6 billion from \$23 billion.

Exxon, the world's largest oil company, said its fourth-quarter earnings excluding the spill provision were \$1.3 billion, or \$1.01 a share.

In keeping with the industry trend, Exxon said higher crude prices in the fourth quarter helped boost its exploration and production earnings, while refining, marketing and chemicals earnings declined.

For the year, Exxon's earnings fell 28 per cent to \$3.8 billion, or \$2.98 a share, from \$5.3 billion, or \$3.95 a share, in 1988. Revenue rose about 9 per cent to \$96.1 billion from \$88.6 billion.

The Alaska spill occurred last March 24, when an Exxon tanker ran aground spilling millions of gallons (litres) of oil that fouled miles (kilometres) of coastline.

The disaster, the nation's worst oil spill, and what some critics saw as Exxon's inadequate response in handling the spill generated harsh criticism of the company by environmentalists and government officials.

The financial effect of the Exxon Valdez accident was clearly the major reason for lower net income in 1989, Exxon chairman Lawrence C. Rawl said in a news release.

The latest spill-related provisions still do not cover the cost of potentially damaging lawsuits that number more than 150 so far and could take years to quantify.

US employment costs up

WASHINGTON, Jan 27 (AP): US employment costs rose 5 per cent last year, largely because of rising health insurance costs, while wage and salary gains lagged behind inflation, the government reported yesterday.

The Labour Department said its employment cost index, considered one of the best gauges of inflationary wage pressures, showed an increase equal to the 5 per cent rise in 1988 in wages, salaries and benefits paid to American workers.

Before 1988, benefit costs had grown steadily for the past three years at about 3.5 per cent.

Benefit costs jumped 6.1 per cent in 1989, compared to a 6.8 per cent gain in 1988. But the 1988 increase was attributed in part to a 5 per cent increase in the employer's social security tax rate — a rate that stayed steady in 1989. Escalating health insurance costs last year kept the cost of benefits high even without a change in the social security tax, the Labour Department said.

Although overall employment costs rose, the rate of wage and salary increases lagged behind inflation for the third straight year. Wage and salary gains rose 4.2 per cent in 1989, under the year's 4.6 per cent inflation rate. In 1988, those gains were 4.1 per cent while inflation was 4.4 per cent.

According to the Labour Department, employment costs for state and local government workers rose 6.2 per cent, up from 5.6 per cent in 1988.

Bonus Savers account

BONUS Saver, the latest savings account launched recently by the Gulf Bank, and the only one of its kind in Kuwait, could be the ideal answer for those government employees receiving the increase in family allowance and seeking to save it for future emergency needs or for the education of their children.

Bonus Savers is a savings account that pays the regular savings interest rate, currently 4.5 per cent, plus a bonus to customer who make a series of regular deposits and no withdrawals over a specified period.

This innovative new product is designed to give the small saver the same kind of advantages that are currently available to those customers with large amounts of money.

Islamic bank announces new loans

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia, Jan 27 (AP): The Islamic Development Bank announced yesterday new loans to the tune of \$151.5 million to member states to finance development projects and foreign trade operations.

The new finances included, among others, \$17 million to Egypt to purchase electricity equipment for a water purification plant west of Cairo, \$12 million to Bangladesh to establish a factory for the production of good quality paper for banknotes and security documents, and \$20 million to Libya to finance the import of intermediary goods.

The Jeddah-based IDB, financial arm of the 46-member Organisation of Islamic Conference, was established in 1975 and has since extended more than \$10 billion in the form of soft loans, technical assistance and grants.

The bank conducts operations according to Islamic laws, which means it charges no interest. The interest-free loans are repaid in periods ranging between 10 and 25 years with grace periods of two to five years.

The bank also extends non-refundable grants to Muslim communities living in non-member states.

Over the past six months, the bank extended loans amounting to more than \$380 million for many of the OIC member states.

The loan package announced yesterday includes a further \$15 million for Bangladesh to finance the construction of rural health centres and to import cement and raw cotton.

Pakistan will obtain \$15 million and South Yemen \$10 million to finance imports of crude oil while Turkey will get 10 million to import scrap metal.

The bank encourages foreign trade operations with OIC member states to enhance inter-Islamic trade.

The bank will furnish Algeria with \$16.5 million to finance imports of raw cotton, palm oil and wool products and will extend three million to the Maldives to modernise its airport.

BIB reports profit rise

BAHRAIN, Jan 27, (Reuters): Bahrain International Bank EC, a small Bahrain-based offshore bank, said yesterday its 1989 net profit rose 2.1 per cent to \$15.5 million.

BIB general manager Donald Selinger said the bank had managed to improve its revenue during the year despite making new investments which were not yet yielding returns.

Operating income rose 5.3 per cent to \$16.5 million in 1989 while expenses jumped to \$3.2 million from 4.6 million in 1988, he said.

"Loan loss provisions were doubled to \$1 million."

"In 1989, BIB accelerated the pace of its growth in the US and Europe," Selinger said.

"Its US subsidiary is expanding rapidly and is now providing a flow of direct investment opportunities which will stimulate BIB's product development and investment returns."

KD deposit rates steady

KUWAIT, Jan 27, (Reuters): Kuwaiti dinar deposits were steady in this trade yesterday, with most operators sidelined in the absence of any fresh factors to give the market direction.

Dealers said business concentrated on the steady rates as operators covered day-to-day positions.

Banks were reluctant to take out fresh positions in the fixed maturities due to perceptions the flat yield curve for one to twelve-month deposits would not change in the near future.

"It's not profitable to take out new positions now," said one dealer. A newspaper report on Tuesday quoted the head of Kuwait's Central Bank as saying the bank would not intervene to push down dinar rates, which have recently firmed.

Currency rates

KUWAIT, Jan 27, (Kuna): Following are the average KD interest rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait today.

| | Buying | Selling |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| US dollar | 0.2803 | 0.2811 |
| Sterling | 0.4802 | 0.4839 |
| DM | 0.1717 | 0.1720 |
| Sw.Fr | 0.1942 | 0.1958 |
| F.Fr | 0.0504 | 0.0507 |
| Y.Lira | 0.0002309 | 0.0002325 |
| Jap.yen | 0.0020260 | 0.0020412 |
| Bah.din | 0.76890 | 0.77277 |
| UAE.Dh. | 0.81995 | 0.82005 |
| S. riyal | 0.07730 | 0.07768 |
| Q. riyal | 0.07963 | 0.08003 |
| O. riyal | 0.74271 | 0.75650 |

Interest Rates

KUWAIT, Jan 27, (Kuna): Following are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait today.

| Period | Bid | Offered |
|----------|-------|---------|
| 1 month | 8-3/8 | 8-5/8 |
| 3 months | 8-3/8 | 8-5/8 |
| 6 months | 8-3/8 | 8-5/8 |
| 1 year | 8-3/8 | 8-5/8 |

Exchange Rates

| | |
|------------------|----------|
| Indian rupee | 0.017230 |
| Sri Lankan rupee | 0.007350 |
| Pakistani rupee | 0.013690 |
| Bangladesh taka | 0.008940 |
| US dollar | 0.291100 |
| Pound sterling | 0.486000 |
| UAE dirham | 0.079220 |
| Deutsche mark | 0.175000 |
| Japanese yen | 0.002048 |

Bear tracks on Wall Street: analysts

NEW YORK, Jan 27, (AP): As they pore over charts of the early 1990 slide in stock prices, some Wall Street analysts say they are starting to see the telltale tracks of a potentially nasty bear market.

Veterans of the financial forecasting game caution that such phenomena are notoriously tricky to identify for sure, at least until well after they have come and gone.

Furthermore, the species has grown unfamiliar, given that the stock market has not experienced a long-term decline since the early 1980s.

But with those qualifications, many market-watchers say there have been several developments to suggest that a

new generation of Wall Streeters might be headed for its first face-to-face encounter with an old-fashioned bear.

"Bearishness can build, and it can build to an extreme," says Joseph Feshbach, technical analyst at Prudential-Bache Securities. "A bear market's purpose, after all, is to purge the extremes of the prior bull market."

"Before it runs its course, this bear market will challenge and ultimately destroy the long-term case for equities."

Those are strong words for a world that has weathered in recent times both the crash of 1987 and the big break in stock prices that occurred last Oct 13.

Pessimists point out, however, that

both those declines were as short as they were severe, and soon gave place to recoveries that carried stocks to new highs.

What is more, they say, the sudden 1987 and 1989 declines could be seized upon as an opportunity for "bargain hunting" in stocks where earnings prospects hadn't materially changed.

Now, many analysts argue, stock prices may be falling without getting much "cheaper," because corporate earnings are slumping badly too, and interest rates are rising at the same time.

Rising rates increase yields on interest-bearing securities that compete with stocks for investors' favour, and thus reduce the relative appeal of stock

divided payouts.

"Recent price declines have not restored 'fair value' to the stock market," argues Abby Joseph Cohen, strategist at Drexel Burnham Lambert, in a current market commentary.

"Corporate profit reports for the fourth quarter of 1989 have thus far contained more disappointments than positive surprises, and consensus expectations for 1990 continue to move lower. We nonetheless believe that these profit forecasts are still too high."

Amid such gloomy appraisals, the Dow Jones average of 30 industrials skidded 118.67 points in the past week to a six-month low of 2,559.23.

The New York Stock Exchange com-

posite index dropped 7.35 to 180.21; the Nasdaq composite index for the over-the-counter market fell 19.55 to 421.33, and the American Stock Exchange market value index was down 15.21 at 350.87.

For a prime example of a modern bear market, many analysts cite the 45 per cent drop in stocks over a span of more than 20 months from January 1973 through early December 1974.

In the subsequent recovery, it took the Dow Jones industrial average nearly 10 years to surpass its early 1973 peaks.

Even in that relatively recent era, Wall Street communications and order-processing systems were

primitive by today's standards.

Analysts see other reasons as well why a bear market at the outset of the 1990s, if one is indeed underway, need not take so long to complete.

For one thing, they say, markets command greater attention from government policymakers these days as a deregulated influence on the well-being of the country as a whole.

Should the economy slump further along with the stock market, say the economists David A. Levy and S. Jay Levy in Chappaqua, N.Y., "its carnage — and the resulting financial crisis — would command the Federal Reserve's attention ahead of all other concerns."

Moves to accelerate development

Inflation-fighting budget announced

BAGHDAD, Jan 27, (Reuters): Iraq says it will spend more than 24 billion dinars in 1990 in an inflation-fighting budget aimed at revitalising domestic production after eight years of wartime austerity.

Deputy Prime Minister for the Economy Saadoun Hammadi was quoted by the ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra today as saying Iraq's total budget for the year topped 24.4 billion dinars (\$78 billion at official rates).

"The new state budget has five goals: fighting inflation, reducing foreign debts, accelerating development, providing consumer goods and maintaining the combat potential of the armed forces," he told the paper.

A budget breakdown published in the newspaper gave no figure for defence spending. While reducing the numbers of

men in uniform, Iraq has built new sophisticated missile and weapons systems since the ceasefire in its Gulf war with Iran came into force in August 1988.

Hammadi said the budget was broken down into 10.7 billion dinars (\$32.1 billion) for state expenses (including the salaries of government workers, which accounted for nearly 40 per cent of this figure).

He said 5.6 billion dinars (\$16.8 billion) was being pumped into investments such as agricultural and industrial projects and 8.1 billion was destined for the public sector, including state enterprises.

A figure of 11.1 dinars (\$35.5 billion) had been given for spending in 1990 but this did not include investments and public sector expenditure.

Iraq has not publicly announ-

ced any figures for its foreign debts, but Trade Minister Mohammed Mahdi Saleh told Reuters earlier this month that \$3 billion would be paid off the nation's foreign debt in 1990, estimated in Western news reports at \$35 billion.

Hammadi admitted shortcomings in Iraq's economic policies during the war years, saying Baghdad had been forced to import goods because industry and agriculture had failed to meet the nation's demands.

"Our economy could not provide enough commodities and services to satisfy the increased demand for consumer goods which we had to import from abroad," Al Thawra quoted him as saying.

He said the prices of consumer goods had risen by between 11.6 per cent and 13.1 per cent a year

since the war started in September, 1980.

The deputy prime minister gave no figure for Iraq's annual inflation rate estimated by some Western diplomats at 40 per cent.

He said 1.5 billion dinars (\$4.5 billion) would be spent on agricultural projects during the next three years to help Iraq "stop importing food...from abroad."

Iraq imports cereals, meat, vegetable oil and other food mainly from the United States, Brazil, Argentina, Egypt and Jordan.

Washington has promised to grant Iraq \$1.8 billion in credits this year, most for agricultural imports.

At official rates the Iraqi dinar is worth \$3.2 but on the black market the figures are reversed with one dollar equating to three dinars.

Lincoln Town Car arrives in Saudi Arabia

1990 Car of the Year

THE new 1990 Lincoln Town Car, recently named 1990 Car of the Year by US magazine "Motor Trend", has arrived in Saudi Arabia.

The dramatically re-designed Town Car, flagship of Ford's fleet of new models for 1990, has been launched by Al Jazirah Vehicles at its showrooms in the kingdom.

The new Town Car has a softer, more modern appearance, and features and assortment of major functional improvements alongside its traditional full-size luxury.

"Steak aerodynamic styling, state-of-the-art technology and advanced safety features are the hallmarks of the 1990 range," says Al Jazirah vice president Mohamed Al Kraideh.

"The 1990 Town Car is a new generation of luxury cars designed to incorporate high levels of elegance and design in a very efficient aerodynamic shell. It has the perfect blend of style and sophistication to lead our 1990 sales."

In 1989, Al Jazirah sold almost 1,000 Lincoln automobiles in the kingdom, of which two-thirds were Lincoln Town Cars.

Slightly longer but maintaining the same overall width, the 1990 Town Car has a lower air-drag coefficient than the previous model, which significantly reduces wind noise. Other exterior changes include aircraft-type doors and flush glass, bright bumpers and wide bright moulding above the fluted lower bodyline.

The Town Car — once again available in standard or Signature



Re-designed new Town Car

series — also has an all-new interior with improved room and an air bag restraint system for the driver and front passenger.

According to the United States National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, using an air bag in combination with a lap and shoulder belt would reduce the chance of fatality by 45 to 55 per cent in severe frontal collisions.

Also offered is all-new seat trim, electronic instrument cluster, lap and shoulder safety belts for front and back seat occupants, and power reclining seats with memory.

The Town Car is powered by a 5.0 litre electronically fuel injected V-8 powerplant with automatic over-drive, and the rear wheel-drive plat-

form has a number of functional improvements including speed-sensitive, variable-assist power steering and rear-spring load-leveling.

Options available include a passenger side supplemental air bag system, four-wheel anti-lock braking system and electrochromatic automatic dimming rearview mirror.

Air bag restraint systems are standard features for the first time on a total of six new Ford cars available in Saudi Arabia — the Ford Mustang, Taurus and Crown Victoria, the Lincoln Town Car, Continental and Mark VII.

Other highlights of Ford's 1990 range include interior refinements to the Ford Taurus and Crown Victoria.

Durable goods orders rise

WASHINGTON, Jan 27, (AP): Orders to US factories for durable goods rose 2.5 per cent in December, but virtually all of the gain was concentrated in the non-automobile transportation sector, the government said yesterday.

The Commerce Department said orders for durable goods — big-ticket items expected to last more than three years — rose to a seasonally adjusted \$133.5 billion after gaining 4.9 per cent in November.

November's gain had been revised downward from a 5.1 per cent advance that originally had been reported last month.

The December orders brought to \$152 trillion the total amount of orders for 1989, a 5.9 per cent increase. That was the smallest since a 0.4 per cent gain in 1986 and followed a 10.9 per cent advance in 1988.

The December increase in overall durable orders was concentrated in the transportation industry, where orders rose 8.7 per cent to \$39.9 billion following a 10.6 per cent gain in November.

But large increases in aircraft, shipbuilding and tanks more than offset declines in motor vehicles, the department said.

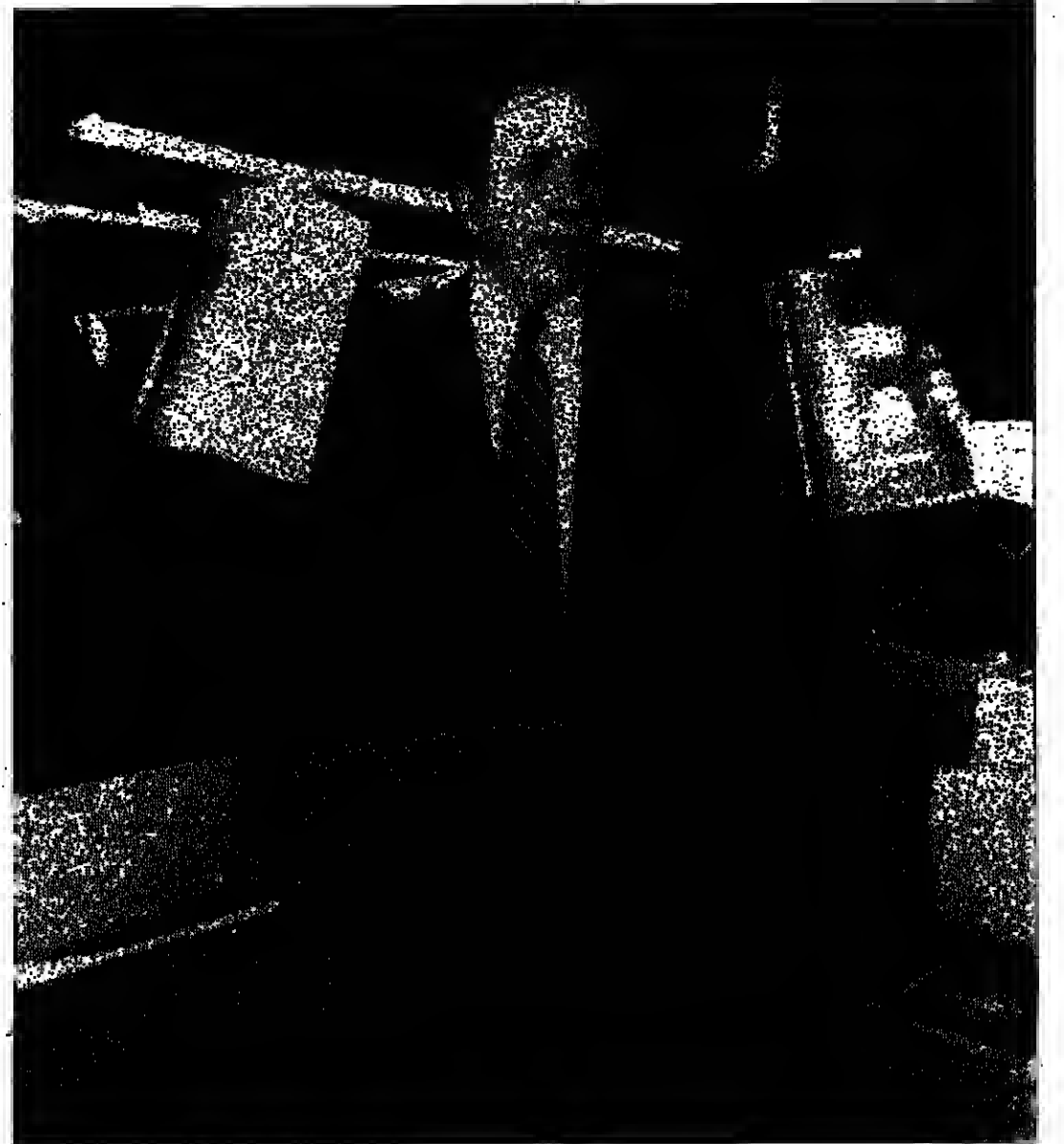
Excluding the transportation category, orders would have been unchanged.

Riyal deposit rates ease

NICOSIA, Jan 27, (Reuters): Saudi riyal interbank deposit rates eased in moderate trade yesterday after an influx of government salary payments added liquidity to the market.

Dealers reported business in the one and two-month maturities as operators borrowed riyals to swap into dollars to take advantage of higher US interest rates. Short-dated funds eased around 1/2 point to eight, 7-1/2 per cent.

One-month slipped to 7-15/16, 11/16 from eight 7-7/8.



Darman displays copies of budget

US budget director Richard Darman displays copies of the 1991 budget, which the Bush administration will present to Congress next week, at the government printing office. (Reuters wirephoto)

Bush to propose \$5 b

Increase in '91 military spending

WASHINGTON, Jan 27, (AP): President George Bush is proposing a \$5-billion increase in defence spending as part of a fiscal 1991 package that includes five B-2 Stealth bombers and funds for two land-based, nuclear missiles, according to congressional sources and Pentagon documents.

The total budget for defence in fiscal 1991 totals \$306.9 billion, an increase exceeding the previous \$301.6 billion defence budget.

The outlays total \$303.3 billion, up from last year's \$296.3 billion, according to military spending documents made available to the Associated Press Friday by congressional sources.

The budget comes on the heels of dramatic changes in Eastern Europe and amid widespread speculation that a diminishing Soviet threat would result in a peace dividend from reduced defence budgets.

If Congress goes along with the Bush proposal, that would mean a 2.4 per cent increase in military spending.

Defence Department officials have been talking for weeks about military reductions that would save \$180 billion over five years. But those savings are measured against administration plans made last spring to boost Pentagon spending to levels now seen as unrealistically high.

"This budget represents the first steps in responding to changes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, as well as tighter budget constraints," Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said in the budget documents.

Among the proposals in the budget is \$5.5 billion for Defence Department spending for five B-2 Stealth bombers. That total is expected to come under

attack on Capitol Hill where lawmakers have expressed sticker shock over the cost of the radar-evading bombers — about \$530 million a piece.

The budget also includes \$2.8 billion for 12 multiple-warhead, MX Rail-Garrison missiles and \$202 million for the single-warhead, Midgetman missile.

The fiscal 1990 budget that emerged from Congress included slightly more than \$1 billion for the two land-based nuclear missiles.

Money for the strategic defence initiative — popularly known as Star Wars — total about \$4.5 billion, which when added to about \$300 million in Department of Energy and Military Construction money amounts to \$4.8 billion, a \$1-billion increase over the amount Congress approved last year.

The budget also includes a proposal to mothball two battleships, the USS New Jersey and the USS Iowa, and various cancellations of weapons programmes, some of which had been proposed for the chopping block last year as well.

Among the programmes to be terminated are the marine Corps' V-22 osprey tilt-rotor aircraft, the Navy's F-14D jet fighter, the Phoenix and Maverick missiles, the Apache helicopter, the army helicopter improvement programme, the F-15E fighter and the M-1 tank.

The budget calls for a reduction in active troop strength by 38,000 from the nearly 2.1 million and cuts in civilian forces of 5,000 and reserves by 3,000.

Cheney said that while some changes in the defence strategy are in order, this is "the worst possible time to contemplate changes in defence strategy." The secretary called the defence cuts "careful, orderly, prudent."

Nato study casts doubt on economic plans

BRUSSELS, Belgium, Jan 27, (AP): A Nato study has cast doubt on chances for success of Soviet economic reforms and warned that simply tinkering with a state-run economy will "generate unpredictable frictions."

The study, obtained Thursday from the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, said Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika campaign has had "poor overall impact" on the economy, which has shown up in falling living standards for Soviet citizens.

"The failure of the Soviet leadership to press ahead with key measures such as price reforms and the half-hearted manner in which it has approached the growing fiscal and monetary crisis are reflected in the continuing decline of the Soviet Union's economic position," said the study.

"The survival prospects for economic reforms in the Soviet Union — now admitted by the leadership to be in the 'state of crisis' — become increasingly doubtful," said the study by economic analysts of the 16-nation

alliance.

The report compared economic reforms in China and the Soviet Union, based on information up to July. It was given to Nato foreign ministers in December.

The analysts said no communist nation has yet succeeded in transforming its centrally planned economy to a flourishing free-market system.

The key reason for failure has been the conflicting interests between the demands for economic reforms and the objectives of communist parties and the vested interest of their members, it said.

Party members want to "safeguard the kind of economic structures — mostly inefficient ones — from which substantial benefits accrue to them," it said.

"Whenever it came to do or die in past reform efforts, the party bureaucrats have always put their own interest first, as reflected once again by recent events in China," it said.

The economic programmes in both the

Soviet Union and China were hampered from the start by "unsuitable political institutions," it said.

The analysts predicted that the reform drive in China would lose further ground.

"Its scope has been seriously restricted and its direction rechannelled toward areas acceptable to the new, more conservative and suspicious leadership in Beijing," it said.

Future reform efforts would likely be limited to modernisation measures that would increase efficiency somewhat, but they would not solve "the deep-rooted real problems of the Chinese economy and society," according to the report.

It said the emerging democracies of Poland and Hungary offered the prospect of severing the tie between the Communist Party bureaucracy and its vested interest in obsolete economic structures.

Gorbachev's support for these efforts in Hungary and Poland may be indicative of his vision of reform, it said.

JPMI 201/50



Actors Marcello Mastroianni (left) and Anita Ekberg with Fellini during a pause in the filming of *La Dolce Vita*, 30 years ago. (Reuters wirephoto)

'La Dolce Vita' celebrates 30th birthday

ROME, (Reuters): When Federico Fellini walks on Rome's Via Veneto he sometimes experiences an irresistible urge to tilt his head to change the perspective of the hilly avenue.

Thirty years ago, the film director recreated Italy's most famous street inside the hangar-sized theatre five of Rome's Cinecittà movie studios to make *'La Dolce Vita'* (The Sweet Life).

The studio version mirrored the real, cafe-lined street in every detail down to the pavement stones, flowerbeds and neon airline advertisements.

The main difference was that the studio Via Veneto was flat. But Fellini, who turned 70 on January 20, still insists his version of the street around which the film's events revolved was better than the real one.

"When I walk past the Cafe de Paris I can't help but feel that the real Via Veneto was the one in the theatre five, that the dimensions of the recreated street were more

exact, more pleasing," Fellini says in the preface of a new book marking the 30th anniversary of the film which made cinema history.

"I became so accustomed to those perspectives that my intolerance for the authentic Via Veneto grew and now I don't think it will ever go away," he says.

The book is just one initiative commemorating next month's anniversary of the film's premiere in 1960. Italian newspapers are dedicating full-page spreads to Fellini and *La Dolce Vita* and there will be television shows examining the impact of the film which caused modern Italy's biggest artistic furore.

Published by Editalia and edited by cinema historian Gianfranco Angelucci, the book bears the same title as the film. Its 500 photographs are all black and white, evoking the movie's mood.

La Dolce Vita, starring Marcello Mastroianni, Anita Ekberg and Anouk Aimee, was considered scandalous by some and a

masterpiece by others.

The Vatican said it should be re-titled "the disgusting life" but Jesuit sociologist John Navone called it "the most Christian film in years."

Today, few doubt it is a classic of modern cinema.

In seven loosely-strung episodes, Mastroianni, playing reporter Marcello, covers the escapades of residual nobility, nouveau riche, starlets and hangers-on of Via Veneto's cafe set as he struggles to find meaning in his life.

Although it showed less flesh than some decadent advertisements on Italian television today, *'La Dolce Vita'* sizzled for what it left to the imagination.

A bored rich woman (Anouk Aimee) takes Marcello in her Cadillac to the squalid house of a prostitute because making love there would be more exciting than in her palatial estate.

In its most famous scene, Sylvia, a towering phosphorescent blonde Diva

played by Ekberg, lures Marcello into a sensual midnight wade in the cold waters of Rome's Trevi fountain.

'La Dolce Vita' mixed the sacred with the profane, perhaps explaining Catholic Italy's passionate reaction to it.

Sex goddess Sylvia visits St Peter's Basilica and dares to compare her statuesque allure to its beauty. In another episode, two children hoodwink an entire town and draw national media attention by falsely claiming to have seen the Madonnas.

Marcello chronicled it all with his inseparable sidekick, photographer paparazzo. The name Fellini gave that character is now in dictionaries as the word for aggressive street photographers.

Irate conservative Catholics and Roman patriots felt Fellini had offended their beliefs provoked a national furore that drew world-wide media attention.

The church gave *'La Dolce Vita'* its highest rating of official condemnation.

How to beat the ageing nightmare

The right diet, herbs, baths and thoughts

MYSTERIOUS healing techniques first taught thousands of years ago are giving Hollywood stars a glamorous new lease of life.

Film star Elizabeth Taylor, Bond beauty Barbara Carrera, Dallas soap queen Linda Gray and a host of other TV personalities are all flocking to amazing "anti-ageing" courses led by a controversial doctor. He says "none of us need grow old."

Dr Deepak Chopra, who has healing centres all over the world as well as in Hollywood, told me: "Many studies have shown that we age because of biological and environmental expectations."

"A famous Indian sage says that the only reason we grow old and die is because we see other people doing it, and this is perfectly true. I have realised that healthy people do not have to deteriorate as they grow older. Ageing contains a large amount of choice."

Dr Chopra's revolutionary methods for beating death and ageing are based on a series of conscious practices. He says: "They use herbs, diet and exercises."

He told me: Actress Liz Taylor often comes to us for a one-week rejuvenation programme. This involves diets, herbal preparations, massage, steam baths, removal of toxins, aromatherapy and meditation.

"Brian Wilson of the Beach Boys also attends our courses, as well as a lot of soap stars. They have all been referring each other to me."

He added: "Elizabeth Taylor wrote to say, 'Thanks to Dr Chopra, I now enjoy a sense of restful energy. Going to his health centre provided me with one of the most peaceful times of my life.'"

Dr Chopra, who was brought up in India and worked in America after qualifying as a doctor, believes that people must meditate if they want to stay young.

He told me: "Gurus in the Himalayas who spend their lives in a deep state of meditation, or awareness, often live to more than 100 years old."

He went on: "A young psychologist called Charles Alexander carried out an important experiment, which proved the importance of meditation. He went into three homes for people who were over 80 and taught about 60 residents some mind-body techniques."

"He taught them a simple

relaxation technique. This was a set of word-games performed every day to keep the mind sharp, and a type of meditation that is called transcendental."

Each person learned only one technique, and the groups were allowed to use them without supervision. When the three groups were tested, the meditators scored highest with improved learning ability, low blood pressure and mental health. All of these should decline with age. The people also reported that they felt happier than before.



Dr Chopra

But the most amazing result came to light three years later. When the psychologist returned to the elderly people's home, he says, about one third of the residents had died since he left. Among the meditative group, though, the death rate was zero. And these people lived to an average age of 84.

When he was in his teens, Dr Chopra claims he had an incredible experience of meditation which he has never forgotten. He watched his physiology professor at college bury a holy man in a state of deep meditation, he said he would be able to survive without air or water.

Dr Chopra, who lives with his wife Rita and their two children, Gautama and Malika, told me: "He was placed in a wooden box just large enough for him to sit inside in the lotus posture. As the top was nailed on, we caught a last glimpse of him, immobile, his eyes half-lidded, as he began to meditate."

Six days later, the sage was dug up again. Dr Chopra recalled: "I watched in amazement as he gave us a little wave, but no smile. His eyes were still half-lidded."

And when the holy man was

taken out of the box, he politely asked for a glass of warm milk."

Dr Chopra says he could scarcely believe what he had seen. And from that moment on, he decided he had to know more about the power of the mind over the body.

And he took up transcendental meditation, which the famous yogi Maharishi Maheshi taught to the Beatles.

He said: "Within a week of meditation, I had stopped drinking my nightly whiskies, and within two weeks, I stopped smoking. It just happened—and I felt a deep inner peace."

Dr Chopra, who specialises in endocrinology and was chief of staff at the New England Memorial Hospital in Massachusetts, told me about another experiment. He said that it proves the importance of the connection between mind and body in feeling younger and healthier.

He said: "A Harvard psychologist called Helen Tangherlin had a group of people who were living in a nursing home outside Boston. She told them to pretend that they were living in the Fifties."

"She had created an environment round them that was completely in the Fifties era. She asked them to talk in the present tense, and had another group who talked about the Fifties in the past tense."

"In the ten days there were about 60 ageing effects which had been altered. The old people's sight had improved, their height had increased, their hormone levels had altered as if they were growing younger, and their blood pressure had dropped. These people were biochemically showing the reversal of age."

Dr Chopra was relaxed but intense as we chatted at a smart London hotel before his return to India. Although he will not reveal his age, because he says it is irrelevant, he does admit that both his children are at college.

He said: "What we call 'normal ageing' in our society is based on an average expectation of how long we will live. For instance, we say men will get naughty at 40, women will become menopausal in their late forties, and so on. But we must break down these barriers, which are taken for granted."

"The non-conformists don't age the same way. And the ancient texts go into greater detail about how we can live longer."



World's largest horse

The world's largest rocking horse Jan 18 at the Chinese Garden, ushering in the Year of the Horse named Victory, measures 8.65 metres in length, 3.9 metres in height, weighs one tonne and costs \$5,000. (Reuters wirephoto)

Computer, sonar can pick up shoals — 3km away

High-tech fishing threatens stocks

STROMNESS, Orkney Islands, (Reuters): The bridge of the huge trawler orcares Viking hums with banks of computers and sonar that can pick up shoals up to three km (two miles) away.

The crew can then set their nets at the correct depth and scoop up anything in their path—dolphins and even whales have turned up in the catch, said Joseph Nicholson, co-owner of the 1100 tonne trawler.

The technology is such that the Viking could catch its whole year's quota of mackerel and herring in a week.

"The potential's unlimited really. The best haul we had last year was 1,500 tonnes in one hour's fishing," said Nicholson's partner Angus Sinclair.

Luckily for the North Sea fish, quotas in Britain are strictly enforced.

"Quotas are there so we don't overfish the seas and ruin the future of the entire fishing industry," said a spokeswoman for the Ministry of Agriculture.

Sinclair and Nicholson sold 1.2 million sterling (\$1.9 million) worth of fish last year and made a profit of 400,000 pounds (\$640,000).

But many Scottish fishermen think they get a raw deal from the European Economic Community (EEC) and its fishing quotas.

There are enough fish in British waters for the British fishing fleet, said one fisherman who declined to be named. "But now that we're in the EEC it's all got to be shared out. The EEC's a bad thing for us."

By a quirk in the rules, Norwegian trawlers are allowed to fish for mackerel and herring in the British half of the North Sea but British ships are barred from doing the same in the Norwegian sector, fishermen said.

And Norwegian ships to be subjected to less rigorous controls, they claim.

Scottish fleets are allowed to fish mackerel only in season. "They (the Norwegians) seem to be fishing all year, they start

the season earlier and go on longer," said the fisherman.

The Viking is allowed only 4,400 tonnes of mackerel and 1,500 tonnes of herring a year.

And since EEC quotas for 1990, decided in Brussels earlier this month, reduce the British quotas for both herring and mackerel, the Viking and other North Sea fishing fleets are likely to be allowed to catch even less next year.

Once the Viking has caught its mackerel and herring quota, the ship picks over several months by fishing for less profitable blue whiting, which is not protected by quotas.

And for four months during the winter the four million sterling (\$6.4 million) ship sits idle in its home port of Stromness in the Orkney Islands off the northeastern tip of Scotland.

Although relatively small compared with some of the Norwegian fleet, the Viking can hold 1,500 tonnes of fish at a time.

The catch is transferred from nets to tanks through a powerful suction tube.

Moored in Stromness Harbour the Viking dwarfs the brightly painted wooden fishing boats bobbing beside it and the modest grey stone cottages around the port.

Sinclair and Nicholson are both natives of these bleak windswept islands. Nicholson started up in business by buying a rowing boat, went on to buy a second and then moved up to a fishing boat.

When that got too small he got a Norwegian shipyard to cut it in half and fit an extension section.

Two years ago he and Sinclair bought the Viking for 2.7 million pounds (\$4.3 million).

The 12 strong crew of local men earn wages which are generous for the islands where a three bedroomed house can be had for a quarter of the price of a London flat.

Now in their mid-thirties Sinclair and Nicholson are among the most affluent men in a community which makes its living largely from sheep farming, fishing, whisky distilling and a small number of tourists.

The greatest glasnost gift of all..... the miracle of sight

A LITTLE group of charity workers has sent a happy, glasnost present to two blind mothers... the miraculous gift of sight.

It comes from England to shortage-hit Poland, with love. The two women wept tears of joy when they learned that they would again be able to see the faces of their loves ones and look once more on their homes and the wonderful world around them. For, up until now, they had been living in a place of fleeting shadows.

The miracle was worked by the charity workers after they had heard that a small-town hospital, 100 miles from Warsaw, had run out of tiny, optical lenses. These are implanted in cataract operations.

No one could even guess when more supplies would arrive. Each lens costs just £34... the price of a family meal in a British restaurant, but two months wages for the average Polish person.

So, although the lenses could be bought privately in Poland,

54-year-old widow Helena Piszcz and farmer's wife Danuta Nowosz, aged 52, had no hope of raising the money.

Then came the wonderful news from England. Charity workers had raised enough money with boot sales, back garden barbecues and sales from a shop to send 27 of the precious lenses to the hospital.

And eye surgeon Dr Zbigniew Zagorski finally implanted the British lenses in Helena and Danuta's eyes, in the green-tiled operating theatre at Biala Podlaska District Hospital.

The next day, he removed the dressings. And the two mothers gazed in wonder as they saw their doctor's face with heart-stopping clarity.

Later, as the women's families crowded round their beds, Helena gasped: "I can even see the colour of the lipstick my daughters Maria and Kristina are wearing."

And Helena, weeping with joy, declared: "I could never have managed to buy the lens myself,

and the hospital had none. So I am very happy to get this gift. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Please send my greetings to the charity workers."



Dr Zagorski examines Danuta, the day after her operation.

their home in the tiny village of Misie, 20 miles from the hospital. Then, in the New Year, Danuta will be back working happily

in the fields with her husband Teswa. She will see once again the blue of the sky and the rolling Polish landscape.

Amid the tears and laughter at the hospital, the two families made their own gesture of glasnost. They sent two colourful bouquets of flowers back to England. With love.

A smiling Dr Zagorski said:

"Both the operations are successful. There are no complications." So, with his blessing, Helena and Danuta will be released within a few days.

Helena will spend a happy time with 26-year-old Kristina,

Maria, aged 31, and her eight-year-old grandson Jacek at her home in Radzyn, 45 miles from the hospital. Danuta will be enjoying a magic time with Teswa and sons Anthony, 20-year-old Slawomir and Josef, aged 15.

Dr Zagorski, whose wife Ursula is also an eye doctor at the hospital, told me: "This is wonderful. We have no idea when the next Polish lenses will arrive. It is difficult to get them, and we have had none since August."

"We have a very big waiting list of cataract operations, and need up to 300 lenses a year for implanting. We receive only 50 a year from our own source."

"These two patients had almost no vision... they could see some silhouettes. It is possible to operate without implanting a lens, but the result is much poorer."

"We advised these two ladies to wait for a lens. But, after many months, they came to us and said they couldn't wait any more. Then we received the news that

we would be getting this consignment from England."

"Now I have implanted these lenses in the eyes of Helena and Danuta, their vision is almost normal. This is a great thing for these two patients. If we had had the lenses, we would have operated on them months ago."

Back in England, John Radgick, treasurer of Polish Hospitals' Aid, said: "I'm delighted to hear about Helena and Danuta."

"This makes all our work worthwhile. I hope these women and their families have the happiest time of their lives."

John, whose charity is based at Farnham, Surrey, went on: "When I was at this Polish hospital last summer, I met Dr Zagorski's wife, Ursula. She told me her husband was pleading for these optical lenses and added, 'when these people see again, it is just like a miracle.'"

Donations can be sent to: Polish Hospitals' Aid, 5 Old Church Lane, Farnham, Surrey G49 8HQ.

But while the work was interesting it was not that lucrative. Harry, from Hove in Sussex, found it difficult to make ends meet.

He said: "Before Peter Waterman came along I was having serious money troubles. I couldn't pay the mortgage and I was beginning to regret going into train modelling full time."

"The work was there but I just wasn't making any money. I made one train for an Italian Count. Part of my payment was two tickets for a trip on the Orient Express. But that was the one time I didn't mind not being paid in money."

Then came Peter Waterman's involvement. Harry recalled: "It seemed that all the trains I was making were being bought by just one man."

"It turned out to be Peter Waterman. Eventually he got in touch with me and asked if I would build engines just for him. He even offered me a lump-sum advance so that I could afford to buy the materials I needed."

"The trains I build for Peter are not ordinary engines, they are special. I have to use crafted wheels."

Model trains

Harry steams ahead

TRAIN enthusiast Harry Dumas is all steamed up about his job. His career — making model trains — is back on the right track, thanks to the whim of a millionaire.

Pop tycoon Peter Waterman, who produces records for such stars as Rick Astley, Kylie Minogue and Sonia has employed Harry on a full-time basis to build steam trains for him. And, with the order worth £250,000 in all, Harry is well chuffed.

"I can't believe how the business has taken off," Harry told me. "I've now got a contract to build 40 trains at £5,500 each for Peter, which means around six a year. Peter will tell me exactly what he wants, then I will build them."

"This order should keep me going for the next 20 years."

Yet as far as record magnate Peter Waterman is concerned, the deal is a bargain. He added: "Harry Dumas is one of Britain's greatest craftsmen."

Harry's future now looks like being a runaway success. But it was decidedly bleak just a few months ago. In 1975 Harry, 48, tripped and broke his leg which cost him his job and livelihood.

He said: "I was a photocopy engineer and when I broke my leg it meant I was forced to give up work. It was a bad break and I couldn't cope with the heavy lifting that the job demands."

It was a worrying time. My wife, June, was marvellous. She became the main breadwinner, while I tried to set up the model train business.

"I had always enjoyed making model trains. So I wondered whether I could make a living doing it. As a hobby I had done very well at it. People bought my patents and kits for engines. I even had a good sideline fixing and repairing other engines too."

"Now it's amazing how many people come to me with their broken trains."

"One man, who came to lay a carpet, asked me if I would value this old model train he had found in his loft. He hoped he could sell it for £50. It turned out to be a very rare and valuable engine made by Hornby. It was originally made in Germany and there were only 200 or 300 made. It was actually worth £3,000."

"I have also worked for the auctioneers Christie's, painting and preparing trains for exhibition. In a way breaking my leg gave me the golden opportunity to turn my hobby into a business. I have had to move out of the tiny wooden shed in the garden and into a bigger garage, where I have been ever since."

But while the work was interesting it was not that lucrative. Harry, from Hove in Sussex, found it difficult to make ends meet.

He said: "Before Peter Waterman came along I was having serious money troubles. I couldn't pay the mortgage and I was beginning to regret going into train modelling full time."

"The work was there but I just wasn't making any money. I made one train for an Italian Count. Part of my payment was two tickets for a trip on the Orient Express. But that was the one time I didn't mind not being paid in money."

Then came Peter Waterman's involvement. Harry recalled: "It seemed that all the trains I was making were being bought by just one man."

"It turned out to be Peter Waterman. Eventually he got in touch with me and asked if I would build engines just for him. He even offered me a lump-sum advance so that I could afford to buy the materials I needed."

"The trains I build for Peter are not ordinary engines, they are special. I have to use crafted wheels."

SNIPPETS

Official, PC sergeant killed in ambush

SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga — A barangay councilman and a constabulary sergeant were shot dead by New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas in Barangay Malusac, Sexmoan, Pampanga.

Lt Col Efrén Q. Fernandez, Pampanga PC-IMP provincial commander, said that Romeo Laxa, 44, barangay councilor of Sexmoan, and PC Sgt Ely Nono, 40, visited a fishpond owned by Josefa Santos at Barangay Malusac on board a motorized banca.

While approaching a hut, they were fired upon by the rebels who were on board another motorized banca, fatally hitting Laxa and Nono. Allan Reyes, driver of the banca carrying Laxa and Nono escaped unhurt.

PC probers said Laxa and Nono died on the spot.

The rebels abandoned their banca and commandeered another boat and then fled. The commandeered boat was later found by PC probers some five kilometers away from the scene of the shooting.

Recovered from the scene of the crime were several empty bullet shells for M-16 Armalite rifles.

Pistol-whipped, hogtied, robbed

A CHINESE man was wounded when he tried to fight three holdup men in his niece's parlor in Sampaloc, Manila.

Chua Teng Sy, 61, was pistol-whipped on the head.

Police said three men entered Majour's Beauty Parlor at the corner of M. delos Santos and Legarda in Sampaloc at 9:45 am.

One had his hair cut by hairdresser Violy Euerera. When Euerera asked for the man's payment, he and two companions pulled out guns and announced a holdup.

Parlour employees, two customers and Sy were then herded on the second floor and hogtied with electrical wire. Sy resisted, prompting one to pistol-whip him.

The robbers took cash and jewelry amounting to P100,000. The robbers managed to free themselves minutes later.

Three rob suspects fall

A MAN, his sister, and another woman who had allegedly robbed a businesswoman of some P500,000 were arrested by Quezon City policemen in Tondo and in Caloocan City yesterday.

Probers identified them as Arturo Manalad, 38, a driver, of 1038A Mabini St, Caloocan City, his sister Zenaida, 36, of 51 Vegido St, Caloocan City and Nida Vicente, 34, of 471 Bugallon St, San Juan.

Lt Nestor Sambolas said Vicente was in a friend's house on Velasquez St, Tondo when arrested. Arturo and Zenaida were picked up in their homes.

Police said the Manalads, Vicente and two others were on board a blue jeep when they blocked the Fiera of businesswoman Dhory Avancena and accused her and her companions of being drug traffickers.

Avancena said the suspects then took her shoulder bag containing some P5 million in cash and checks and fled.

The Manalads and Vicente said the jeep was borrowed from them by a certain Petchit, Jun Laki, Danny Bulinas and Jay Butiki all of Tondo, on the day of the robbery.

Arturo said when the four came back, he and his sister were given P6,000 each while Vicente got P4,000.

The Manalads and Vicente are detained at the Quezon City police jail.

7 arrested for maul

AN army soldier and six other men who allegedly shot and mauled two brothers and a labourer during a party were arrested shortly after the incident.

Pfc. Alfredo Paitan, 24, was positively identified by the victims as the gunman.

The other suspects were Angel Paitan, younger brother of Alfredo, Jundie Escopillo, Alberni Escopillo, Chito Playa, Angelito Palit and Bernie Dr.

Victims Lito and Agustin Espano, 38, both of Ramon Compound, Quirino Highway, Quezon City sustained gunshot wounds in the right shoulder and left wrists while Francisco Buenconsejo, 63, suffered contusions in the body.

Police said the mauling happened at Ramon Compound.

Paitan was accidentally shoved by Lito so he cursed him and began firing his gun.

'Agaw-arnas' men nabbed

TWO men were arrested hours after they stabbed a security guard dead to get his service firearm.

Roberto Reyes, a car washer, of 236 Metropolitan Ave., and Hernani Chavez, 27, of Vito Cruz Ext., both in Makati, gave up peacefully to policemen led by Capt. Benjamin Lavarez.

Reyes was arrested inside his home while Chavez was surprised near a store at the corner of Zapote St, Makati.

Lt Arthur de Guzman and Pfc. Venancio Lincangco said the victim's firearm and fan knife were recovered from the suspects.

The guard, Cristiano Pagaddu, 26, of 236 Vicente Cruz St, Sampaloc, Manila died on the spot from a stab wound in the neck.

Police said Pagaddu was seated in front of the Bormabecco Condominium on Metropolitan St when the suspects attacked him.

2 Bulacan traders shot

TWO businessmen were shot and wounded by unidentified men while they were talking to each other in front of a house of a friend in Barangay Magmarale, San Miguel, Bulacan.

Police identified the victims as Corazon Cruz, 36, and Francisca Libunao, 24, both residents of Barangay Magmarale.

They said the women were talking with Marina Quimpo when they heard gunshots.

Cruz was hit in the back while Libunao was hit in her left arm. They were taken to the San Miguel Emergency Hospital for treatment.

Lt Rufino Mendoza, San Miguel police chief, sent men to search for the suspects in Barangay Magmarale.

Palay hijackers arrested in Bulacan

TWO suspected hijackers were arrested by police while waiting for their companions and buyers of stolen palay in Barangay Sta Rita, San Miguel, Bulacan.

Police identified them as Rolando Fernando, 34, of Barangay Pulo, San Isidro, Nueva Ecija and Antonio Gonzales, 27, of barangay Niyugan, Jacn, Nueva Ecija.

Lt Rufino Mendoza, police chief of San Miguel, said the suspects and four others hijacked a truck loaded with 103 cavans of palay along the Maharlika road in San Miguel.

The truck was driven by Cornelio Francisco and the palay was owned by Antonio Salazar, both residents of Barangay Poblasyon, Talavera, Nueva Ecija.

Francisco told investigators that he was bound for Metro Manila when six armed men riding in a jeep which had no plate number stopped him.

Police are still scouring Cabanatuan City for the two suspects' four companions.

Pirates attack fishing boat: Zamboanga City

Three fishermen were reported missing and believed killed when pirates aboard pumpboats attacked their fishing boat off a coastal village in Tungawan, Zamboanga del Sur.

A PC report said a companion of the three fishermen, Jaime Duhaingnood, was wounded in the attack.

Duhaingnood said he and his three companions, who were not identified in the PC report, were asleep when their fishing boat was sprayed with gunfire by the pirates.

He said his three companions were hit and fell into the sea. All three did not surface, he added.

Fake eligibility found: Legazpi City

The Civil Service Commission (CSC) has uncovered a syndicate selling fake eligibilities to public school teachers in Bicol.

CSC assistant regional director Maria Salome Samson said the commission has revoked the appointments of four public school teachers in Masbate found to have used fake CSC eligibilities for their employment.

In an investigation conducted by CSC legal counsel Mariano Vista, Samson said the fake eligibility holders pointed to a certain Carmel Branzuela as the facilitator of passing grades required in exchange for P6,000 paid by each teacher.

The teachers told the CSC investigator that Vista claimed he was a CSC representative, Samson said.

Cyrano, the big-nosed lover

By Hilarion M. Henares Jr

NO other character on the classic stage has more of a visual impact than Cyrano de Bergerac, poet and swordsman of France, with an enormous and rather repulsive nose.

"A Heroic Comedy in Five Acts," written in French by poet Edmond Rostand, translated into English by Brian Hooker, and into Filipino by Francisco "Soc" Rodrigo, the play Cyrano de Bergerac has thrilled millions of theatergoers all over the world with its chivalry and wit, bravery and love, forever captured in the timeless spirit of romance.

It is the moving and exciting drama of one of the finest swordsmen of France, a gallant soldier, and tragic lover with the face of a clown.

Captivating, bittersweet sadness and exquisitely polished language have made Cyrano de Bergerac one of the best loved plays in the literature of the stage.

Today we shall tell you the story of this wonderful play, for two reasons. First, the play in Soc Rodrigo's Filipino version is scheduled to be presented in the Little Theater of the Cultural Center, everyday from Thursday January 18th to 31st of the month, starring Jose Mari Avelana — in one of the most moving and brilliant performances I've ever seen, better than Jose Ferrer's acclaimed movie performance. The play will be brought to the provinces for performances before schools and colleges, and soon will also be presented in its English version.

Second, having written all of the Broadway's hits — Cats, Les Miserables and The Phantom of the Opera — we would like to write of other plays being presented here by the Repertory Philippines and others, in the hope that our readers may learn to appreciate the legitimate stage.

Longo ago, there were movie magazines devoted to stories depicted in motion pictures. We hope to do the same with stage plays here.

Time, 1640 in France, the time of swordsmanship and chivalry. The curtain opens on the hall at the Hotel de Bourgogne where a play is to be presented. The principal characters are introduced:

● Christian, a raw recruit into the regiment of Cyrano. He is warned that there is one rule in the regiment, and that is, never to refer, by deed or word, to the nose of Cyrano, a keen swords-

man with enormously ugly nose.

● Comte de Guiche, Cyrano's protagonist, who just escorted to the theater box the girl he loves.

● Roxane, lovely cousin of Cyrano, with whom Cyrano is also secretly in love, and who just attracted the attention of the handsome Christian.

● Le Bret, Cyrano's friend, who is wondering where Cyrano is.

The play begins, and suddenly Cyrano de Bergerac appears upon the scene and bullies the main actor Montfleury out of the stage, because as he explains later, Montfleury dares to look upon Roxane with loving sheep's eyes.

When the audience protested, after having paid money to see the performance, Cyrano offers to pay them back, throwing to the crowd a pocketful of gold coins, his entire month's allowance. "What a fool you are!" Le Bret remonstrated. Cyrano answered, "Ah but what a gesture! What a moment!"

The highlight of the First Act is the sword play between Cyrano and Valvert who dared to taunt him with "Your nose is rather large."

"Is that all? You are too simple, you might have said many things. Why waste your opportunity?"

"For example, Do you love birds so much that you give them your nose to perch on? Sir, when you smoke, people think your chimney is on fire. When it blows, the typhoon howls; when it bleeds, the Red Seal It's a crag, a cliff, no it's a peninsula!"

"These are the things you might have said if you had a tinge of letters or of wit to colour your discourse. But of wit you have not an atom, and of letters, you have but three to write you down — ASS!"

Then Cyrano proceeds to fence with Valvert, reciting a poem he composed extempore, ending with "Then as I end the refrain, thrust home!"

The Act ends with Roxane seeking an appointment with Cyrano, who dares to think she might have some love for him.

The Second Act opens at the Bakery of the Poets, where Cyrano has his secret meeting with Roxane. He is crushed when Roxane tells him she is in love with Christian whom she never met. Cyrano volunteers to get the two lovers together.

Later he meets Christian who, to prove his courage among his comrades, taunts him about his nose. Instead of chastising his



with his sword, Cyrano embraces him and tells him of the love of fair Roxane, and the need to woo her like Romeo did Juliet, below her balcony.

The Third Act opens upon a little square before Roxane's balcony, where Christian, accompanied by Cyrano now proceeds to declare his love to Roxane. But Christian is inarticulate, and Roxane is disappointed, having expected poetic words of love to light the spark of romance in her heart. At this point, Cyrano intervenes and speaks to her from the shadows, pretending he is Christian, and pouring out the words of love locked in his own heart:

"All those blossoms in my heart I fling to you! Love, I love beyond breath, beyond reason, beyond love's own power of loving!"

"You know how, after looking at the sun, one sees red suns everywhere — so for hours after the flood of sunshine that you are, my eyes are blinded by your burning hair!"

"An you feel my soul, there in the darkness, breathe on you! In my most sweet unreasonable dreams I have not hoped for this! Now let me die, having lived."

"It is my voice, mine, my own

that makes you tremble in the green gloom above me. You tremble and I can feel, whether you will or not, the passion of you trembling."

Roxane falls madly in love, and Christian goes up the balcony, and gives her a kiss and a pledge of love.

Later in the evening, they get married, while Cyrano keeps de Guiche at bay by pretending to be a madman. Learning of the marriage, de Guiche orders both Christian and Cyrano to report for military duty, for the war with Spain is imminent.

Roxane makes Cyrano promise to take care of Christian and see to it that Christian writes her every day.

The fourth Act opens on the battlefield, where Cyrano's men are hounded. Christian tells Cyrano of the many letters he received from Roxane and extracts an admission from Cyrano that he (Cyrano) has been writing to Roxane in Christian's name. Cyrano hands over to him the latest tearstained letter in which he betrays a feeling that death is at hand.

Roxane shows up with food and good cheer for the troops, and tells Christian that his letters made her love him more — that

she loves him for his real inner self, not for his good looks, even if he happens to be "ugly."

Christian realizes that Roxane really loves Cyrano, and tells Cyrano to claim her as his own. But destiny intervenes. Christian dies on his body. Roxane finds the last letter of love, stained with tears and blood.

The Last act opens fifteen years later. Roxane is still in mourning in a convent, while Cyrano, a destitute poet, visits her weekly to bring her news of the outside world. In the last scene, Cyrano shows up, dying of a head wound inflicted by an assassin. He asks to read the last letter of Christian held close to her heart.

Unaware that he is dying, she hands him the letter, which he reads aloud in the gathering darkness, practically from memory:

"I know it will be today, my own dearest beloved — and my heart still so heavy with love I have not told, and I did without telling you! Farewell my dearest, I am never away from you. Even now I shall not leave you. In another world I shall be still that one who loves you, loves you beyond all measure, beyond..."

"It was you, I might have known!" Roxane realizes that

this is the voice that spoke to her of love beneath her window, and that Cyrano is the man she really loved all these years. "The letters, that was you! The voice, the soul, that was you! Why were you silent for so many years? Here in this letter lying on my breast, your tears — you know they were your tears!"

"The blood was Christian's," Cyrano answers, and as he dies, she says, "I have loved but one man, and I lost him twice."

The climax of the play occurs when in his delirium, Cyrano confronts the spectre of Death and his ancient enemies:

"You there, who are you? A hundred to one — I know them now — Falsehood! Prejudice! Compromise! Cowardice! Vanity! Surrender? No, never, never!"

"Yes, all my laurels you have taken away, and all my roses! Yet in spite of you, there is one crown I will wear away with me; and tonight when I enter before God, my salute shall sweep all the stars away from the blue threshold!"

"One thing without stain, unsponsored from the world, in spite of doom — mine own! And that is..."

Then with one magnificent theatrical gesture, he says, "The while feather on my cap!"



Painter of native dream

THE most graceful, sensitive and seductive line in Philippine painting. It is how art lovers describe the works of Carlos V. Francisco, or Botong, the son of Angono, Rizal, "the man and genius of Philippine art."

In watercolors, oil, pen and ink, on paper, canvas and wood, the line not only gives life to the human figure but also lends movement and repose, birth and death, pride and beauty. Except perhaps in one work, his sketches, murals and renderings are dominated by the human figure, as though to say that his works and his world are defined by it.

Empty space. The world is such without Botong's transformation of form and colour into myths, history, reality. It is, however, the Filipino spirit that hovers in and around his creation. It is his statement.

At the ongoing display of his works, memorabilia, and black-and-white photos by Dick Balduino at the main gallery of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, the viewer will discover the underlying thread that sews together the Filipino from the highest of the high Cordilleras to the deep seas of Sulu, from the people's distant past to the artist's present.

His men are symbols of strength, valor and industry. The

women, of beauty, grace and dignity. Heaven and earth. The love of life, of all goodness, things that rule everything under the sky, in the course of life.

Some are life-sized in anger, others exact in pride. The private collection — a set of watercolors chronicling the Filipino's travels and trials — records that point when the artist has mastered the medium, when the man has taken the gods of water under his command.

Botong Alay at Alaala shows the glory in survival despite... the love of, and respect for, country despite... the identity of the nation despite its weaknesses, faults, errors, sins. It is criticism of life without betraying the country. It is an endeavor to escape life and find answer in those lines, colors and figures.

Although technique is lost somewhere in those embodiments of the artist's, if not the nation's, aspirations, the soul is preserved. And it is enough reason for the exhibit to go on a tour around the archipelago.



Autonomy for the Cordilleras

ON January 30, the people of the Cordilleras will vote in a plebiscite to ratify the Organic Act approved by President Corason C. Aquino on October 23, 1989.

The provinces of Benguet, Mountain Province, Ifugao, Abra and Kalinga-Apayao and the chartered City of Baguio will be the focus of attention of the entire Philippines. How will the Cordilleras vote?

By now, hopefully, the Cordillera people are aware of the advantages to be derived from the creation of the autonomous region. As mandated by the Constitution, autonomy will ensure for them the development of their economy, the promotion of their cultural heritage, security of their ancestral domain, and self-government within the framework of the Constitution, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Philippines.

The national government will retain its powers over foreign affairs, national defense and security, postal service, coinage and fiscal and monetary policies, administration of justice, quarantine, customs and tariffs, citizenship naturalization, immigration and deportation, general auditing, civil service and elections, foreign trade, maritime, land and air transportation, and communications affecting areas outside the region, patents, trademarks, trade names and copyright.

Besides a Cordillera Regional Governor as chief executive, and a Cordillera assembly vested with legislative powers, a system of trial courts which may include a Tribal Appellate Court, will be created. The Cordillera assembly may also create a Council of Elders.

While it is true that the Organic Act may have its flaws, it is clear that the creation of the autonomous region will be a step forward for the people of the Cordilleras.

Incidental information: As we open the decade of the '90s and with the end of a turbulent 1989, it is to be hoped that the Philippines, which suffered a setback last month, will be able to rise, like Phoenix from the ashes, and will move towards economic recovery.

It will require a lot of sacrifice, and selflessness, and the struggle will be difficult, but the Filipino, despite his "indolence," is unique. He is resilient, talented, capable of great things. With determination, he can and overcome the obstacle to success.

Embassy corner

NCEE examination

THE Philippine Embassy wishes to announce, in connection with the previous press release appearing in this newspaper on Dec 10, 1989 that the date for conducting the NCEE (National College Entrance Examination) for those intending to take up collegiate courses in Philippine schools and universities is Sunday, April 15, 1990.

Applicants are hereby advised to take advantage of the few remaining days until this Wednesday, January 31, 1990, to let the Embassy know of their intention to take the NCEE exam by submitting their self-addressed stamped envelopes to the embassy and/or filling-up the NCEE form (Registration Form) at the embassy. After Jan 31, 1990, there will be absolutely no acceptance of NCEE applicants, as the final list of applicants has to be transmitted to Manila.

As announced earlier, students holding Libyan, Syrian, or Iranian passports are discouraged from applying for the NCEE. Holders of other passports are eligible to apply for the NCEE and, if qualified, are eligible to study in Philippine colleges and universities. The whole process takes 6 months to one year.

Proposed Philippine School in Kuwait

The Philippine Embassy in Kuwait is co-ordinating with the Department of Education, Culture and Sports in Manila, to furnish this embassy with the basic curricula, technically known as the "Minimum Learning Competencies" for kindergarten until Grade 7, as well as the this writing, only twenty (20) respondents so far have submitted their that deadline for submission of the survey forms is Wednesday, Jan 31, 1990. So, please stand up and be counted.

مكتبة الادب

An original in clothes and politics

WHEN Norma Urbina was appointed Office-in-Charge (OIC) of Pasay City and met her police command for the first time, the latter were heard asking each other: "Ano, mayor ba natin? Yan o fashion model?" Later, her station commander came up to her to ask: "Ma'am, sino po ba ang couture ninyo?"

That should give one an idea of Norma's slim, fine-boned and well-dressed looks. It also decided her on setting out on an honest-to-goodness RTW business, which today has blossomed into a going concern with showrooms at No. 2 Lapulapu corner EDSA, Magallanes Village, and two labels, OIC (Originality in Clothes) and Urbina.

This is getting ahead of our story, however, which actually begins with "country girl" Norma Seno of Cebu marrying "city boy" Gerry Urbina, president today of the Manila Stock Exchange. Norma considers her coming from a "simple" family and growing up in a rural environment in her hometown of Mandaue, famed for its no-nonsense hardworking citizens and the large number of its college graduates and professionals, one of her distinct assets. I can go anywhere, do anything, and feel right at home," she declares. "I'm also used to working with people from all walks of life." Then with a laugh she adds, "I went to school at St. Nino in Cebu where there were a lot of mestizos and I always said I hated mestizos. Look with what I ended up, a mestizo husband and mestizo kids!"

This ability to get along with people in any kind of situation blossomed during Marcos and pre-EDSA days when Norma was an active street parliamentarian and do-or-die Cory Crusader. Her idealism and activism likewise stood her in good stead when she was chosen to be Pasay City's OIC for the required 45-day period before the 1988 local elections. Due to post-election hassles, the 45 days stretched to 90, during which Norma had her first baptism of fire with politics and politicians. "Good government is possible," she insists. "That's what I showed the people, but people are not ready for it. People have to change. One should enter the government to render service to

the people. But what happens is that traditional politicians are able to buy voters, then once they are in office, they start to recover on their "investment" — with interest yet." She is pragmatic enough however not to blame the voters for this undesirable situation. "I really cannot blame the people, majority of whom live below the poverty level. Unless we can rise above that poverty and improve economic conditions, we will never be ready for good government!"

Norma's brief experience as a local executive has also firmed up her belief that women can make better leaders than men, and that it is time more women were in administrative positions. She recalls, "I would tell my male colleagues in City Hall, 'You men always accept invitations to go places and meet people after office hours simply because you cannot refuse the constituent or official who is extending the invitation. One thing leads to another and many times to a broken home. Now, who among you would dare to invite me, your lady OIC mayoral, for a drink or some dealings after office hours at City Hall? We women go straight home after work and no monkey business for us!'"

For Norma, deciding to go full blast into a RTW business was also one way she could translate her business know-how, honed from earlier business ventures, and her desire to serve the people, into something concrete to help the women in her area of Pasay City. She says, "I don't want the women, especially those in the less fortunate areas, to have to leave their homes and children in order to earn a living. If you have street parents, you get street children, right? If I could provide employment for them in their own homes, they could work while attending to their children and household duties."

Norma set about organizing a community. "I'm very good at organizing," she smiles. She started with the women, conscientizing them through talks and meetings that stressed the values of responsibility, diligence, sincerity, honesty, quality work, as workers and citizens of the country. "I don't just recruit anyone for the business," she states. "My workers have to prove themselves to me that they are really good, because I have standards, which they must attain and maintain."



Former Pasay City OIC Norma Urbina sits beside a mannequin sporting one of her OIC creations.

Norma has some 20 families in her labour force, some in Pasay City and some located in Bulacan, for her RTW lines. She has a separate group of women who are crocheting fine dollies for her, another community effort which she has organized.

Her initial efforts got a good reaction from friends, one of whom bought up her whole stock at one time. Last year, Norma formalized everything by putting up her showroom and offices, where buyers, individual or otherwise, may easily contact her. With an advance phone call, Norma makes herself available to friends ("Two at a time, please, since the office is so small") for consultations and

fashion advice. Her idea of the showroom is a place where women can take their time choosing and trying on clothes. The idea has gone over greatly with clients, so much so that her friends from Quezon City have been importing her to open a second showroom in northern Metro Manila. She is giving the matter thought, as well as the plan (hazy at the moment) to get into the big department stores. Since Norma is also available for producing clothes for a buyer under the buyer's label, she is not discounting the possibility of further expansion. A prospect is also shaping up where by she may soon be exporting to Australia, where her eldest daughter right now is taking her MBA and

is thinking of settling down.

All this adds up to Norma's latest discovery: civic work and business can go together. She declares: "As long as both you and your workers are conscientized, it will work. I could have put up my money in the money market and, as my husband says, earned something without any headaches. But I want to help my country by giving jobs to the less fortunate women. At the same time, I also earn, making even more than from the money market!"

With her home and family, her business efforts and her continuing activism, this time with a group militantly against coups and coup plotters and for the Philippine Cancer Society of Pasay and Makati, Norma juggles an extremely busy schedule. She, however, says that organization is the secret of her well-oiled wheel. She gets up every morning at 5:30, in order to supervise her children's breakfast. These (minus Agnes, 24, who is in Sydney), are Anton, 17; Andre, 14; and Ardee, 12. All go to schools in Pasay which include Chinese in their curricula and are therefore fluent in the language.

After the kids have left, Norma joins husband Gerry in some quiet time for reading the daily newspapers. "A whole stack of them, beginning with the inquirer," declares Norma, who makes a point of reading voraciously everything of importance that is published. "Reading is one of my favourite activities," she quips, "aside from my work, of course."

Mondays, she sits down with her in-house designer and for her own designing efforts, and to planning the new designs for the week's production. She is extremely proud of the neatly finished undersides of her clothes, and of such fine details as handsewn buttonholes. (The last amazed even this writer. Handsewn buttonholes on RTW? Indeed!)

Wednesdays, she markets in Carlinar, Pasay, having kindly discovered that with people heading for Bacalaran on this day, prices are a bit cheaper. She prepares everything for the next two weeks, labeling everything so the cook knows just what to prepare for each meal. "That's also organization," smiles Norma, who, needless to say, is a very good cook.

Teach kids about national costume through colouring

HOW goes your Filipino national costume IQ? Did you know the rayadillo waist blouse and white striped cotton shirt worn by the members of the Philippine Army and the Ateneo students of yore; and comes from the Spanish word raya, meaning the sun's rays? And that the terno, before its original meaning was sullied by the fashion extravagance of the previous regime, is actually a matching baro (a loose house with bell-shaped sleeves) and saya (a flowing floor-length skirt) outfit, thus the appropriateness of the Spanish word terno which means "matched"? And that yesterday's beauty contest winner whose turn influenced the year's fashion was the Carnival Queen?

Never have my seven-year-old's colouring books been read with as much adult interest as now, after this unusual inexpensive find of three "kulayan natin at ikuwadro" titles at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila bookshop: Pormang-Porma Rin Sila Noong Panahon ni Maria Clara: Philippine Costume in the 1800s (1988); and Terno, Baro't Saya: Mga Kasuotan Noong 1920s-1940s, Tomo I at Tomo II (1989). The latter publications are acknowledged to have been possible through Damian Domingo grants from the PLDT.

The cover designs alone demonstrate that these are not ordinary, haphazard editions, for even while subject to the usual constraints of third world publishing, these have managed to be visually attractive. Choosing the contents of the colouring books. One uses dainty calado embroidery for a border, another has chosen to repeat a detail of an elaborate embroidery design, while the third uses the familiar contrasting stripes of the traditional saya.

And the anticipation that the covers raise is not empty, either, for the contents give every evidence of much research and planning. Why the necessity of all this trouble for stuff as simple as colouring books? Because we know what little documentation there is that is available to everyone regarding our rich heritage, much less for the Filipino child, so that what may seem like information about Filipino apparel simplified for the child's appreciation and understanding, is not exactly general knowledge for today's young parents. And also because all three carry introductions by MET curator and Filipiniana scholar Felice Sta. Maria, who is to be credited for having successfully conveyed her intellectual wonder and curiosity to her young readers and their parents, as well.

Sta. Maria's introductions, bilingual like the rest of the text, from the single-sentence captions on every white, non-newsprint (hooray for this!) page to be coloured to the wardrobe glossary at the end of the books, set the unifying tone for the books. Pormang-Porma (relish that contemporary expression for something from the distant past) begins, "Philippine costume began in ancient times with practical tubes and flat pieces of cloth turned into trousers, skirts, tops and G-strings." And without meaning to boast, this same book shows how each and every illustration did not just emerge from the artist's whimsy, but are based on old documents, illustrations, and even paintings of Damian Domingo, Juan Luna, and Felix Resurreccion Hidalgo. Thus, all are indeed appropriate to be displayed on bulletin boards.

While the wealth of information the colouring books provide will delight every parent and school teacher, these are far from textbookish. It is obvious that Sta. Maria has made learning more fun than what the texts can offer.

More than a fashion parade of yesteryears, the books provide a glimpse of Philippine customs and traditions. Thus, the allusion to a couple dancing out a vow in Obando, the practice of buying sampaguita garlands after Mass, and the zarzuela, the tango and the pasodoble as favoured pastimes.

We can only hope that more such publications are in the offing, considering the many variations of Filipino apparel, evolving from both necessity and ingenuity, and the information that must be supplied for the period after the forties. What about the balintawak, the patadyong, and the malong, and the apparel of the minority tribes, besides? Would these not make excellent paper doll cutouts, Pinoy style this time?

There should be room for these on your child's bookshelf, providing worthier and more relevant company for the more easily accessible Walt Disney type productions.

(The author is a member of the Philippine Board on Books for Young People.)

Balancing act

By Roy Llanera

Both Ed Ocampo and Yeng Guiso flashed wry grins after the Philippine Basketball Association's expansion draft last Jan. 5. "We got what we want," the coaches chorused.

True. But look at their loot. A bunch of down-the-hill and bordering players scavenged from a junk heap of hardcourt discards and misfits. Fact is, only two — Elmer Reyes and Joey Loyzaga — have resale value.

It must have the devil's smile the coaches of expansion teams Pepsi-Cola and Pop Cola wore on the Friday noon.

They knew they were in a tight fix. They have to pass through the scrutinizing eyes of fellow coaches and discerning hoop fanatics, come the start of the open conference on Feb. 18.

Fishing from a shallow pool of gifted veterans and promising rookies, the management of Pepsi and Pop Cola do not expect instant returns from their multi-million-peso franchise investments. They know too well that the PBA is a tough jungle to conquer.

But, for other coaches and fans, only the winning counts. At least, Ocampo has been at the hot seat many times before.

Three PBA crowns with disbanding Toyota and one with Royal Tru-Orange (now San Miguel beer) proved he survived the test. Now, he is taring to retrace the lost paths and explore new horizons.

Guiso, a theoretician with a pulse for the players' momentum, just wandered into the jungle and got entangled with the vines.

Impressive in the amateur backyard — with two championships in four coaching stints with RFM Swift — the 30-year-old Guiso had to be plucked out of the Philippine Amateur Basketball League when negotiations for Robert Jaworski to handle Pop Cola in the PBA fizzled out.

Now, Guiso will be mapping out plays and strategies against mentors in the age level of his father, Pampanga Governor Bren Guiso.

No doubt, Ocampo and Guiso are competent coaches. No doubt, they've got new tricks to offer.

Do not take their bold pronouncements of coming up with competitive for the open inaugural too seriously, however. You'll be disappointed.

Another peek at their probable line-ups will help.

Aside from the hurly Loyzaga, the draft yielded Tomichi Yurri, Jeffrey Graves, Ricky Relosa, Harmon Codinera and Alejo Alol for Pepsi. Ocampo then signed up rookie free agents Rey Yncierto and Salvador Ramos. Gilbert Reyes, at the helm of 36 amateur deserts, is also to be taken in.

Elmer Reyes, aerial strutter of back-up stature and superstar caliber, leads Pop's haul. Reyes, 32, Sanboy Lim's sabbie reliever at San Miguel, will be Pop's chief gunner. He will lead totem poles — Cayetano Salazar, Joseph Pelaez, Fernando Garcia, Ricky Cui — and mastodons — Sonny Cabatu, Pido Jarencio and Leoncio Tan. Add hotshot Alejandro de Guzman from the amateurs and you've a happy blend of Scrawny, scrappy players.

Ranged against the rosters of the originals, the discrepancy is obvious. Two toddlers among six adults.

Do not despair, though. The

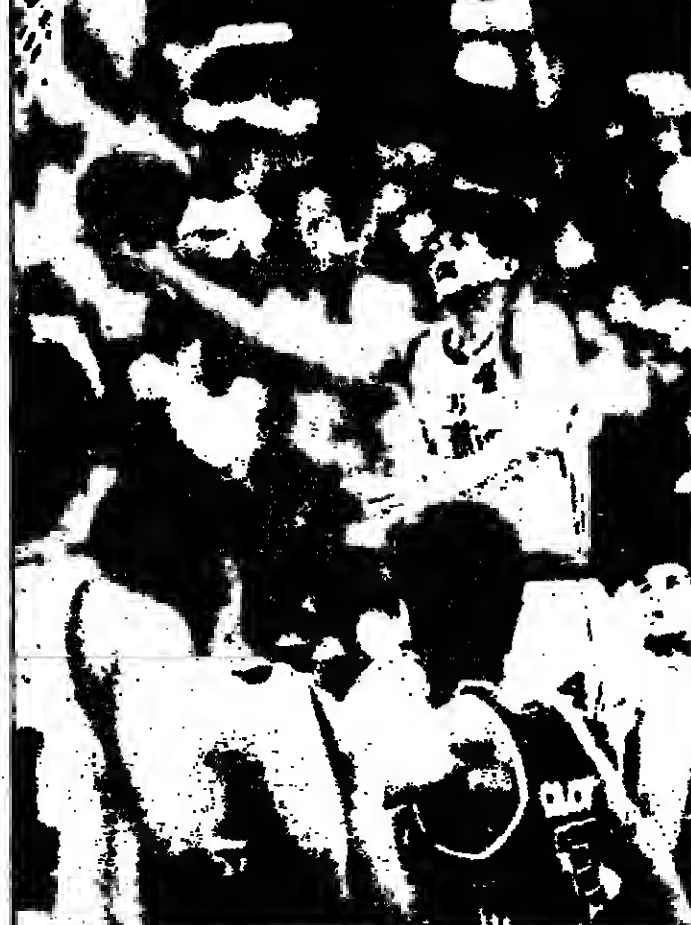


Joey Loyzaga should find fulfillment at Pepsi.

PBA, even after adapting the proven nine scheme and denying the newcomers the top amateur pick, has this latent balancing talent.

Ocampo and Guiso must gope the system works each time. Or else, they can forget competitiveness at the moment.

But happy they are with their respective acquisitions.



But will Elmer Reyes (4) stay put at RFM!

From the provinces

QUEZON CITY: Customs Commissioner Salvador M. Mison ordered yesterday the filing of criminal charges against two customs officials and six other persons for alleged involvement in the smuggling of P2 million worth of washing machines with the use of fake papers at the Manila International Container Port (MICEP).

Ordered charged with theft and violation of Section 3602 of the Tariff and Customs Code are Ricardo Fanelo Jr. of Marc Freight Forwarders, Eva Bldg., Juan Luna St., Binondo; Carlos Baustista of Bilog, Valenzuela; Bulacan; Teodoro Servo, c/o Victoria Trucking, Tondo, Manila; Eulogio Ordonez, customs employee at the assessment division of MICEP; Pedro Bartolome of the piers division of MICEP; R. Alarcon and "John Doe" and "Peter Doe" with still unknown addresses.

Mison likewise filed administrative charges against the two customs men, Ordonez and Bartolome, for grave neglect of duty, and gave them 72 hours to explain why they should not be dismissed.

Meanwhile, lawyer Antonio B. Betito, chief of the voluntary payment office and special assistant to Mison, said the sustained drive by the Bureau of Customs and the Integrated National Police against illegally assembled vehicles earned for the government an additional P2 million in duties and taxes.

Gen. Edgar Dula Torres, superintendent of the Northern Police District (NPD), turned over yesterday to Mison and Betito 102 plates of "chop chop vehicles" seized by his men in Quezon City.

Most of the apprehended vehicles were Isuzu trucks and Elfand dropside trucks. The joint drive by the Bureau of Customs and the NPD started only last Dec. 23. The NPD was deputized by Mison upon the recommendation of Betito to apprehend untaxed motor vehicles.

QUEZON CITY: An executive of a multinational company was found dead inside his car in Quezon City. It was reported.

The victim, Catalino Ylanan, 50, business development manager of Merck-Dow Pharmaceutical Inc., was found dead in his car in front of a bakeshop on E. Rodriguez Blvd., Quezon City. He suffered a stab wound in the chest.

Police said Ylanan apparently tried to drive his car to the hospital but was unable to do so because of his mortal wound.

Witnesses told investigators that Ylanan was stabbed by one of two unidentified men on Aranceta Ave. following an argument over a road accident.

Witness said Ylanan's car was humped by a bicycle carrying one of the two assailants before the altercation started.

One of the assailants was later seen stabbing Ylanan. The two fled towards the squatters area on Aranceta Ave.

Meanwhile, a former Army corporal was nabbed by Quezon City operatives for alleged involvement in a series of jeepney holdups in Roxas district, QC.

The suspect was identified as Edgardo Grijaldo, 39, alleged member of the "Istribo Gang," a group victimizing jeepney passengers. Pat. Norman Ladore, investigator, said Grijaldo and his group held up Sgt. Juan Aguirre of the Western Police District (WPD) last week.

MALATE: Social Welfare Secretary Mita Pardo de Tavera will accept today a donation of \$3 million freeze-dried food products to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) by the Italian government represented by Ambassador Mario Crema.

The turnover ceremonies will take place at 10 am at the DSWD National Training Centre and Laboratory for Women's Welfare at 1680 F.T. Benitez St., Malate, Manila.

Secretary Tavera and Ambassador Crema will sign a communiqué for the acceptance of the donation.

The Italian donation, which was recently shipped to the country, is intended to augment the food assistance of DSWD for the poor. It is composed of 100 metric tonnes of mixed vegetable soup (Minestrone) and 30 metric tonnes of granular meal.

Director Milagros Llanes of the DSWD's Bureau of

Emergency Assistance said that the foodstuffs will be allocated to Regions II, V, VII and other regions affected by disasters.

The freeze-dried food products can be stored for more than two years and can be easily integrated with local staple food.

BALANGA: Bataan — Bataan plunged in total darkness when the National Power Corp. (Napocor) cut off yesterday its supply of electricity for failure of the Bataan Electric Cooperative (Batelec) to settle its overdue accounts of P9.1 million in electric bills.

Batelec staff assistant Jaime Banzon said that Napocor, upon the request of Gov. Leonardo B. Roman, gave Batelec two weeks grace period to pay the whole amount. He said Napocor went on with the disconnection after the cooperative failed to raise P9.1 million.

Banzon said the province will be in total blackout until it can pay the whole amount "probably before or after the end of January." He said that Napocor would not accept partial payment and denied a local officials' plea for one week extension to pay it.

Roman reiterated an appeal to the consumers to help Batelec bail out of the predicament by paying their electric bills promptly. He said that the blackout situation "as we experienced in the past" will again exact heavy losses on business enterprises.

Community leaders, who have been religiously paying their electric bills, have urged Batelec officials to adopt bolder steps to insure a more effective and efficient collection of unpaid consumers' electric bills which, according to Banzon, amounts to P15 million.

CEBU CITY: (PNA): More than 12,000 people have sought shelter in government evacuation centers in Lapulapu and Mandaue cities, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) said.

The evacuees are housed in the Mandaue Central School, St. Alphonsus Catholic School, Lapulapu City Central School, Soong Elementary School, and Gun-on Elementary School, Fe Arcilla, Lapulapu City social welfare office, said.

Seventy-eight evacuees had fallen ill at the Soong Elementary School, Arcilla said.

Medical teams from the Lapulapu City health office and the regional health office are distributing medicines to the evacuees.

The evacuees fled their homes for fear of being caught in the crossfire fighting between government forces and the mutinous soldiers holed up at the Mactan Air Base.

MAKATI: Mayor Jejomar C. Binay warned over the weekend certified public accountants (CPA) against conniving with unscrupulous businessmen who underdeclare their income to evade paying the correct amounts of taxes.

"They (notorious accountants) should be reminded that their accounting firms may face criminal prosecution for falsification of public documents if they collaborate with their clients in deliberately distorting the figures in their income statements," Binay said.

The mayor said that the government loses billions of pesos due to tax evasion.

Binay aired the warning following reports that several Makati-based companies have filed "dubious and unrealistic" tax declarations with the inspection and permit division of the municipal hall.

Meanwhile, the several businessmen renewing their permits and licenses sked Binay to reprimand municipal officials who "sit on" piles of documents resulting in delay in the processing of their papers.

MANILA: Most of the affiliates of the Labour advisory and Consultative Council (LACC) recommended to President Aquino yesterday the appointment of Labour Undersecretary Ruben D. Torres as secretary of labour and employment.

In a meeting at the Palace Restaurant, leaders of the various LACC affiliates announced their individual nominees for labour secretary, after failing to arrive at a consensus to present to Mrs. Aquino a common list of nominees.

The decision not to submit a consolidated list of nominees to Malacanang was made after the Kilusang Mayo Uno

(KMU) refused to submit its list of nominees. The KMU, headed by Crispin Beltran, said they would rather see major changes in existing labour laws than concern themselves with choosing a new labour chief.

Torres, who is presently undersecretary for labour relations, was endorsed by the Pambansang Katipunan ng Manggagawa by Reynaldo Capa, the National Association of Trade Unions (NATU) under Vicente Bate; the Trade Unions of the Philippines and Allied Services-February Six Movement (TUPAFSSM), under Ben Alar; and the Alliance of Filipino Workers (AFWMLC), headed by Gregorio del Prado.

Earlier, Torres received the unanimous endorsement of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP), the Meralco Employees and Workers Association (MEWA) and the entire LACC chapter in Negros and Iloilo.

ESPERANZA: Agusan del Sur (AFP) — Rebel troops planned to pulverise the Philippine president's official residence with bombs during the failed coup attempt last month, a former presidential guard who joined the mutineers has said here.

Army Colonel Alexander Nohle, 42, also warned of a new coup attempt to be staged in Manila, to be coupled with a "peaceful" component here in the southern island of Mindanao.

Col Nohle, a former officer in President Corason Aquino's guards now carrying a bounty for his capture, made the revelations Thursday during an interview with Agence France-Presse at his barracks-like hideout in this remote southern town in Agusan del Sur province.

In a separate interview, rebel Brig. Gen. Edgardo Abenina said in a clandestine interview that the mutineers had planned to set up a transition "revolutionary government" run by a civilian-military junta.

Abenina said he would have been a junta member, along with the leaders of two other rebel military factions and three unnamed civilians.

The revolutionary junta planned to abolish the constitution, call for general elections a year after taking power, and seek to become "diplomatically independent" from the United States, he said.

Col. Nohle is about six feet-two inches (185 centimeters) tall, heavy-set and has a P1 million prize on his graying head.

He revealed the rebels battle plan for the first time here at his compound, far from populated areas. Armed soldiers could be seen in the vicinity.

He said that the overall coup leader, cashiered army colonel Gregorio Honasan, planned an aerial attack first on Mrs. Aquino's house across the street from Malacanang presidential palace in Manila.

Then Mr. Honasan planned to "razz Malacanang to the ground with continuous bombing," Col. Nohle said.

Rebel planes rocketed and damaged Malacanang on the morning of December 1, the first day of the coup bid, but further attacks were prevented after Mrs. Aquino enlisted the protective cover of US warplanes.

Mrs. Aquino told Manila newspaper editors and publishers on Tuesday that she took cover in the Malacanang basement during the attack by rebel planes.

The Philippines hosts Clark Air Base and the Subic Bay Naval Base, the two largest US military facilities overseas.

TARLAC: Tarlac: Local government leaders and concerned citizens of the western towns of this province appealed yesterday for the retention of the 60th Infantry Battalion of the 7th Infantry Division based in Mayantoc town here.

Mayors Tomas Recto, Noel Antonio, and Martin Agustin of Mayantoc, Sta. Ignacia, and Camiling, all towns of this province, respectively, said that the presence of the Army battalion in the area has immensely contributed to the peace and order of the community.

The appeal was made following reports that Army unit will be transferred to Bagac, Bataan.

The mayors said that the presence of the military in the area is a strong deterrent against crimes.

BLONDIE



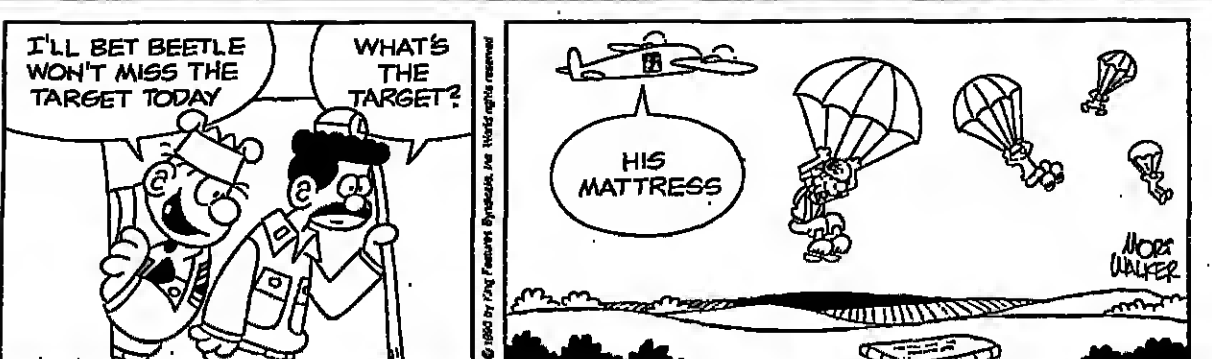
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



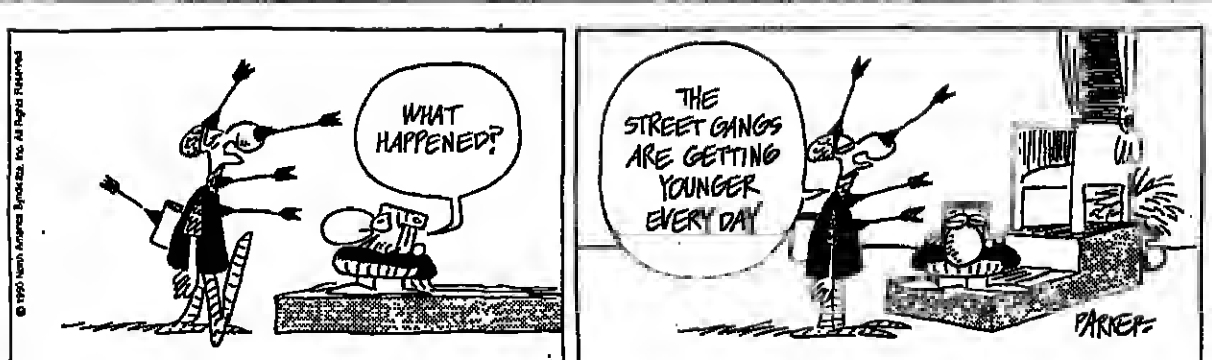
AGATHA CRUNK



BEETLEBAIT



THE WIZARD OF ID



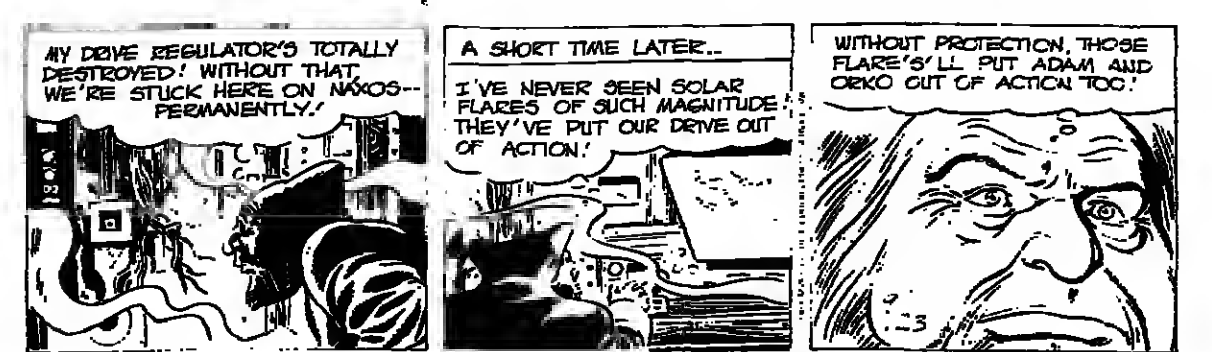
ANDY CAPP



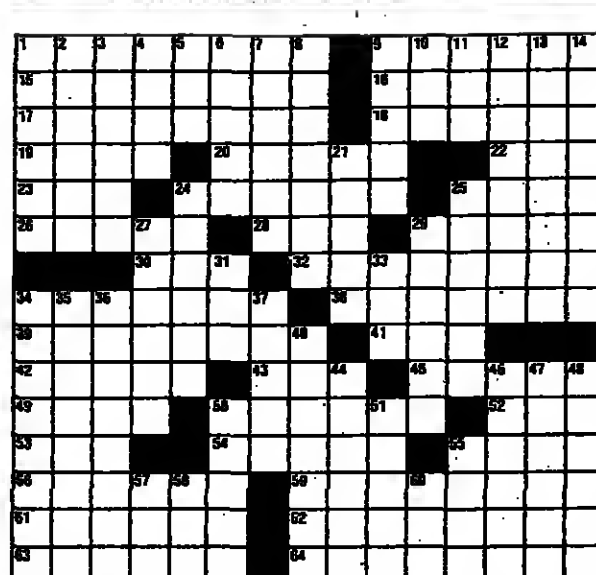
B.C.



HE-MAN



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Gourmandizes
9 Schoolbook
15 Similar
16 Adam
17 Child's companion
18 Orbs
19 Yorkshire river
20 "Over"
22 Between Man. and Que.
23 Picture
24 "...the ocean"
25 Divided by
26 Actor Albert
28 CSA fighter
29 Walk - (be happy)
30 Class subj.
32 Choice seating
34 Shares the lead
38 Actress Del Rio
39 Having seed coverings
41 Thicken
42 Fork features
43 Priestly vestment
45 Change the clock
49 River of N. England
50 Spirited horses
52 Links VIP
53 Existing for many yrs.
54 Muhammad's birthplace
55 Arm of the Amazon
56 Pianist Jose -
59 Trumpet blasts
61 Cowboy's need
62 Arising unexpectedly
63 Cold country vehicle

DOWN

1 Vote nay
2 Haid deer
3 Cleaned the board
4 Comedienna
5 Large, graceful tree
6 Winged
7 The limit of one's strength
8 Nod visitor
9 Storms
10 Join the mil.
11 Fuss
12 Lika Fred Astaire
13 Close of day, to Byron
14 Brings back
21 Fanatical
24 Transfers
25 Shoe part

27 Strong plant fibers

28 Drugstore cowboys, usually
31 Nest egg inits.
33 Egg drink
34 Tall marsh plants
35 Eastern
36 Financial plum
37 Condition
40 Chosen
44 Developed into
46 Not as fat
47 Deviating from proper course
48 Salutations of a sort
50 Hit hard
51 Jutland natives
55 Summon, in a way
57 Free
58 Shopper's need
60 Board mems.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

ASST ADM TWIST
DOCE TRAP REEKS
OORM AERO AERIE
STEPONACHACK
THEOREM RHETT
OEO ANTE AENEIO
UNDERALAOER
MDRN ARR ESAU
BREAKAMIRRIOR
ARABIC SEAR SRA
ADAPT SPLICES
SPILLTHEESALT
CIACHE ASIA TRIO
OTHER PAVE LIER
DEEDS TIEL EIDS

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

LOOK FOR THE SILVER LINING

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ J 10 7

♥ 10 4 3

♦ A Q 9

♣ 8 6 5 3

WEST

♠ Q 9 5 3

♥ Q 6 5 2

♦ 8 6 4 3

♣ 2

EAST

♠ A 8 2

♥ K 9 7

♦ 7 5 2

♣ K 9 7 4

SOUTH

♠ K 6 4

♥ A J 8

♦ K J 10

♣ A Q J 10

The bidding:

South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♦ Pass

2 NT Pass 3 NT Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♠

It is not the very complicated hands that set the expert apart from the average player. It is his ability to find an extra chance, however slight, that proves his mettle.

The auction has a pretty point—North's one-diamond response. With no good four-card suit and no reason to want to declare no trump, North chose to make a waiting bid in his hardy three-card minor. As a result, the stronger hand became declarer and was shielded from the

opening lead.

The average player would put up the jack from dummy at the first trick, losing to East's ace. On the spade return, he might play low just in case East held the queen as well, and then perform win the third trick with the king of spades. He would use his two diamond entries to dummy to take club finesse. Both would succeed but, when West showed out on the second club, eight tricks would be the limit of the hand.

A skilled declarer would be concerned about the possibility of a 4-1 club break. Since four club tricks are probably needed for the contract, he also would play the jack from dummy on the opening lead, but would jettison the king under East's ace! A heart switch or spade continuation would only help declarer, so let's suppose East shifts to a diamond. Declarer wins in dummy with the queen and takes the club finesse. When that wins, the table is entered with ace of diamonds and the club finesse is repeated.

Since West was unlikely to have led a low spade from four low cards in the suit, declarer can almost surely get to the board a third time with the jack of spades. That is the key entry to permit a third club finesse and bring home the game.



"There's a F-I-L-E in the C-A-K-E"

YOUR STARS

Aries
March 21 - April 20

You will have problems discovering how a mechanical device works. Do not allow yourself to become angry, just leave it to one side. It will become clearer later. Spend some time with your friends. Be amenable.

Cancer
June 21 - July 20

Not everything will be as you would wish it to be but much is. You will be able to take advantage of what is in your favour. Your lucky numbers are 23 and 37. You should not worry about something that is not likely to happen. Be responsive.

Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

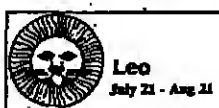
You will tend to hide your face from the facts and should do all you can to restrain the trend. If you try to pretend to yourself you will not succeed. And even less will you succeed in deceiving others. Be sensible.

Capricorn
Dec. 21 - Jan. 19

You will be able to rest secure in the knowledge that you have done the right thing. Do not try to repair anything electrical unless you know just what you are doing. A little while spent tidying up is time well spent. Be prompt.

Taurus
April 21 - May 20

At first all will seem to beat odds but soon a pattern will again emerge. Do not leave your partner in any doubt about your love. You must not think that only you have good ideas. Be astute.

Leo
July 21 - Aug. 21

After a long discussion you will arrive at a satisfactory conclusion. You should not trust too much to luck even if you have some. Do not insist on having your own way in all things. Be less supercilious.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

You should try to take just a little more regular exercise. And make sure you do not eat too many starchy or sugary foods. Do not insist on having the last word. Be objective.

Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 19

Do not take being frugal to the point of meanness but do not by any means be extravagant. Avoid making so much noise that you annoy the neighbours. Try not to leave things half undone. Be tolerant.

Gemini
May 21 - June 20

You will tend to be rather on the nervous side, try to keep calm. Do not allow others to tread on you but do not do so to others either. Try to keep up to date with your reading. Something you have been delaying should not be put off much longer. Be sincere.

Virgo
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

You will not have time to do all you would like to do. However you will be able to enjoy doing what you do have time to. Try to avoid everything that is likely to give rise to tension. Be moderate.

Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

You should take just a little better care of your health. Make sure you get all the rest you need without becoming lethargic. Try to avoid harbouring resentments. Be frugal.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - Mar. 20

You must make sure of closing doors and windows when you go out there are thieves about. Make sure you do not trust to luck to find the way; do consult a map. Have a good laugh at yourself. Be alert.



"Why don't you have a good scream and get it over with?"



"He hates it when someone uses his bowl."

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

STUDIO AL MOAMEN

SOUK AL WATYA, Tel: 2439400

Cameras, albums, films etc.

Bring a film get a gift photograph

Try us for picture taking

Civil ID, photos, wedding and children's photos, photos for all occasions.

1ST TIME IN KUWAIT - DIFFERENT POSE PHOTOS

A second branch of CLEOPATRA shop in Holiday Inn Hotel is now in Kuwait International Hotel

Aladdin Antiques

Offers souvenir

- * Old gramophone.
- * Beautiful art work.
- * Handicraft work.
- * Old compass.
- * Old silver vase.
- * Pearl work.
- * Imitation jewellery.

AND MANY MORE ITEMS

For enquiries call 2530000 ext 8064

FOR SALE

2 IBM COMPOSERS

English & Arabic. * 8000 character memory enables easy format changes, text revision & correction. * Special scanning feature to create run-arounds & set up text columns. * Magnetic cards for jobs storage & create a filing system in English composer only. * 3 types of fonts, in different sizes, Light, Bold and Italic.

For further details ring: 2411001 ext. 522/589.

WANTED

1. Cleaning labourers
 2. Drivers/light and heavy
 3. Crane operators
- With valid residential permit.

Please try to contact us on Tel. No. 3988878 - 2414288

AL KHADRA REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

For rent: Villa - 4 beds, reception, D/R, kitchen, bathroom - KD 800
 Villa - 3 beds, Rec/D/Rm, beautiful garden - KD 650
 Villa - 3 beds, Rec/D/Rm, beautiful garden - KD 700
 Villa - 3 beds, 3 Rec, Rec/D/Rm, garden - KD 500
 Many flats starting at KD 200
 Tel: 2445040, ext. 248.
 Tel: 2445040, ext. 248.

ACCOMMODATION

Wanted

ACCOMMODATION required for a Yugoslavian lady to share with a lady in a flat in Hawalli at Hassan Busri Street. Tel: 2666332, 2-4 pm, 8-10 pm.

SPACIOUS room, required for bachelors to share with an Indian family (non-Keralite) in Kuwait City, from Feb 15 or earlier. Tel: Mr. Rajesh, 2445040, ext. 248.

SHARING accommodation for a Dawoodi Bohra couple preferably in Sharq or near the Bahblani Complex. Tel: 2406795, 4-6 pm.

2 or 3 BEDROOM apartment with spacious hall and 2 bedrooms, preferably furnished required. Tel: 4837545, 9033051.

FOR SALE

Computers

COMPTON - 64 with disk drive 1541, tape drive music key board with demo disk books and mes. KD100 or ono. Tel: 3263288, 8am - 4pm and 7/10470, after 4pm.

Furniture

CHILDRENS bedroom furniture, french made white, Kufuma black dining table with eight chairs and buffet in very good condition. Tel: 2652085 after 4pm.

Cars

JEEP CJ5, 1979, metallic blue with matching factory hood, many imported extras, Loada chrome, stereo, etc. KD1,000 ono. Tel: 5657243, evenings.

TOYOTA Supra, 88, AC, automatic, white, 35,000 kms, in excellent condition. Price KD5,450 by monthly instalment of KD160 each, plus KD300 cash. Send fax or Tel: 2543040.

MERCEDES Sports 380 SL, dark blue, registered in 1982 in excellent condition. KD5500. Tel: Mike, 5323086 after 4.30pm.

NISSAN Stanza '84 model automatic, AC, 4 doors, hatchback, 74,000 kms, insured upto August 1990, in good condition. KD750. Tel: 5638562.

REQUIRED IMMEDIATELY

A MECHANIC

with a minimum of 10 years' experience. Attractive salary. Tel: 3818421, 3818678 During working hours 3718180 night.

OLDSMOBILE Cutlass, 1983, fully automatic, 1-door, AC, in very good condition. KD1,600, negotiable. Tel: 9020287.

Miscellaneous

2-BEDROOM flat for sale, including rosewood furniture, organ, carpets, electrical things and green plants. Owner leaving Kuwait end of Feb. Tel: Mahmoud, 5843843, after 5 pm.

SMALL 'bar' fridge, single bed, suite (2 beds) 2 armchairs, various baby items, 20m carpet, and 30m curtain. All are in excellent condition. Tel: 3903561, after 2.30 pm.

NATIONAL Video Camera VHS auto focus M3EM with case and accessories. Hardly used. KD250. No offer. Tel: 5723254, 4-6 pm.

PHILIPS drier, children's bedroom (2 beds and cabinet), 4 door wardrobe, centre table, dining table/6 chairs, JVC TV, 20", curtains. All items are in good condition. Tel: 5641260 from 9-11.30 am and 6-8 pm.

PETS

POMERANIAN dog, white, beautiful, 8 months old, vaccinated, well-trained, good with children. For sale, KD50. Tel: 5614831.

SERVICES

Baby Sitting

AVAILABLE in Hawalli opp. the National Bank of Kuwait. Tel: Thomas, 2429771, 1-4 pm.

Tuition

AVAILABLE in all subjects upto class VI 5 days a week near the Fifth Ring Road Garden. Tel: 5641887.

FOR RENT

Villas, half villas, flats, complete buildings, offices in all areas in Kuwait with or without swimming pool

Qatar Real Estate
 Tel: 2406592
 2406593

You can finally get professional computer maintenance services at

CompuFix

Specialising in IBM PC, XT, AT, 286, and compatible brands

Special yearly rates for maintenance contracts. Call 2407866 ext. 12.

REQUIRED

A FEMALE SECRETARY

Must know English typing and be able to converse in Arabic. Should have a transferable residence. Tel: 2450998 from 4:00 - 8:00 pm

The Systems Centre for Administrative Consultancy

for individuals, companies and factories offers

- * Administrative Consultancy
- * Management
- * General Services

Tel: 4767568 - 4767567

FOR SALE

BAKALA

For sale in running condition.

Khalid Jodeed, Block 3, St. 113
 Contact: Mahmood Ahmed
 Tel: 4717817, 7.00 to 9.00 pm.

Transport

REQUIRED from Abu Halifa to Rawda at 8.00 am. Tel: 3718578.

AVAILABLE from Salmiya to Kuwait City, 8 am - 12.30 pm, 4-7.30 pm. Tel: Mr. Noor, 2481958/57; Mr. Johar, 2429111.

SITUATIONS

Vacant

MAID required preferably Filipino from 4-6 pm, Sunday through Thursday, and sometime baby-sitting in Salmiya. Requires references. Tel: 5749317 after 4 pm.

A RELIABLE housekeeper required with good references and transferable residence. Only those with necessary papers should apply. Tel: 2407391, 8am-2pm.

HOUSE maid required Indian or Sri Lankan, for a small Indian family with two children full time, live-in at Jebriya. Tel: 5320139 from 2-10 pm.

MAID required immediately for a family with one child. Tel: Mr. Nizar, 5656962.

Wanted

FULL time /part time maid for immediate employment. Tel: Cecilia Mary, 5382637 from 4-8pm on Sat and Mon through Friday.

QUALIFIED accountant, Indian, 38 years old, M. Com degree holder, 8 years' experience as financial accountant in Kuwait with knowledge of computers, looking for suitable job in accounts. Tel: Nayer, 5718925, 5725153.

MARKET PLACE

BOODAI CARGO

International Freight Forwarder

- * World-wide door to door service
- * Customs Clearance
- * Packing-Forwarding
- * Air-Sea-Trucking

VILLA FOR RENT

A beautifully maintained four BRs, 3-1/2 BA home, with lovely courtyard, neutral decor, ceramic floor, oversized garage. Tel: 4744266

Al Ibrahim Taxi

Tel. 2400013, 2400014, 2400015
 Farwaniya branch
 Tel. 4745600, 4745900

FOR RENT

Villas, half villas and flats with swimming pool

Tel: 2401908 - 2407877
 2451489 - 2451476
 FAX 2403260
 The All Real Estate

IBA KAMIKAPAG CARGO ANG PINAG-USAPAN DDDR TO DDDR PHILIPPINES

484-6009

ASIAN CARPETS

Selected handmade carpets & rugs from Iran-Afghanistan-Kashmir-Pakistan Turkey-China-Caucasian-Tribal rugs & Kilims.

VERY LOW PRICES
 Shop: Mezzanine Floor, Hotel Holiday Inn.
 Time: Sat to Thu: 9 am - 12 & 4-9 pm.
 FRIDAY: 4 to 8 pm only.

GENERAL SERVICE

For all your shifting with transportation, painting, wall papering carpet & villa cleaning. We are at your service, with skilled workers. We are also buying and selling furniture. Contact: Mr. Stanley
 Tel: 4748877
 Al Mawasin Trdg.

Al-Naqeeb & Khattar Co. W.L.L.

Airfreight your personal effects...ECONOMICALLY

484-6009

REQUIRED

For a food processing factory in Sabhan

Filipino girls

To work on wrapping machines.

Interested persons please contact on telephone 4731006/4731048

FOR PACKING & FORWARDING

BY AIR ALL OVER THE WORLD

AL-SAWAN CO.

SPECIAL SHIPPING SERVICE TO BOMBAY, COLOMBO, COCHIN, MADRAS & MANGALORE.

DOOR TO DOOR SERVICE TO MANILA

SHUWAIKH ☎ 4737723, 4734960, 4737983, 4740886.
 CITY ☎ 2433356, 2413740 FAHAHEL ☎ 3927885

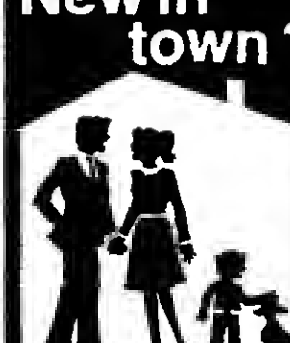
For your advertisement
 Please contact Advertising Department
 Tel: 4816326/
 Tel: 4816327

FOR RENT

- 1) New flat, Farwaniya Ghazali Street with 3 bedrooms and sitting room, rent KD 210/- per month.
- 2) New shop, for rent, KD 180/- 21 sq. mt.
- 3) New flats in Maldan Hawalli - 2 bedrooms, with sitting room, central A/C. KD 200/-

Contact Tel: 2423944

New in town?



Check the classified pages of the Arab Times for used cars, boats, furniture and electronics. The bargains will amaze you.

ARAB TIMES CLASSIFIEDS COUPON

2 insertions KD 4. Three insertions KD 5

1. Advertisements may be mailed in only on this coupon, or preferably, completed at the Arab Times office between 8.30 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 4.30 - 6 p.m.
2. To complete the coupon, follow the sequence of the information given in above printed advertisements, for desired section heading. All advertisements will be printed according to Arab Times format and are subject to editing.
3. Advertisements must not exceed 25 words including name and telephone number.
4. Text must be typed or clearly printed. No alterations or cancellations will be made after publication.
5. Advertisements of personal nature involving business transactions will not be accepted, nor any matrimonial advertisements.
6. The Arab Times is not responsible for postal delays.

Section heading

.....

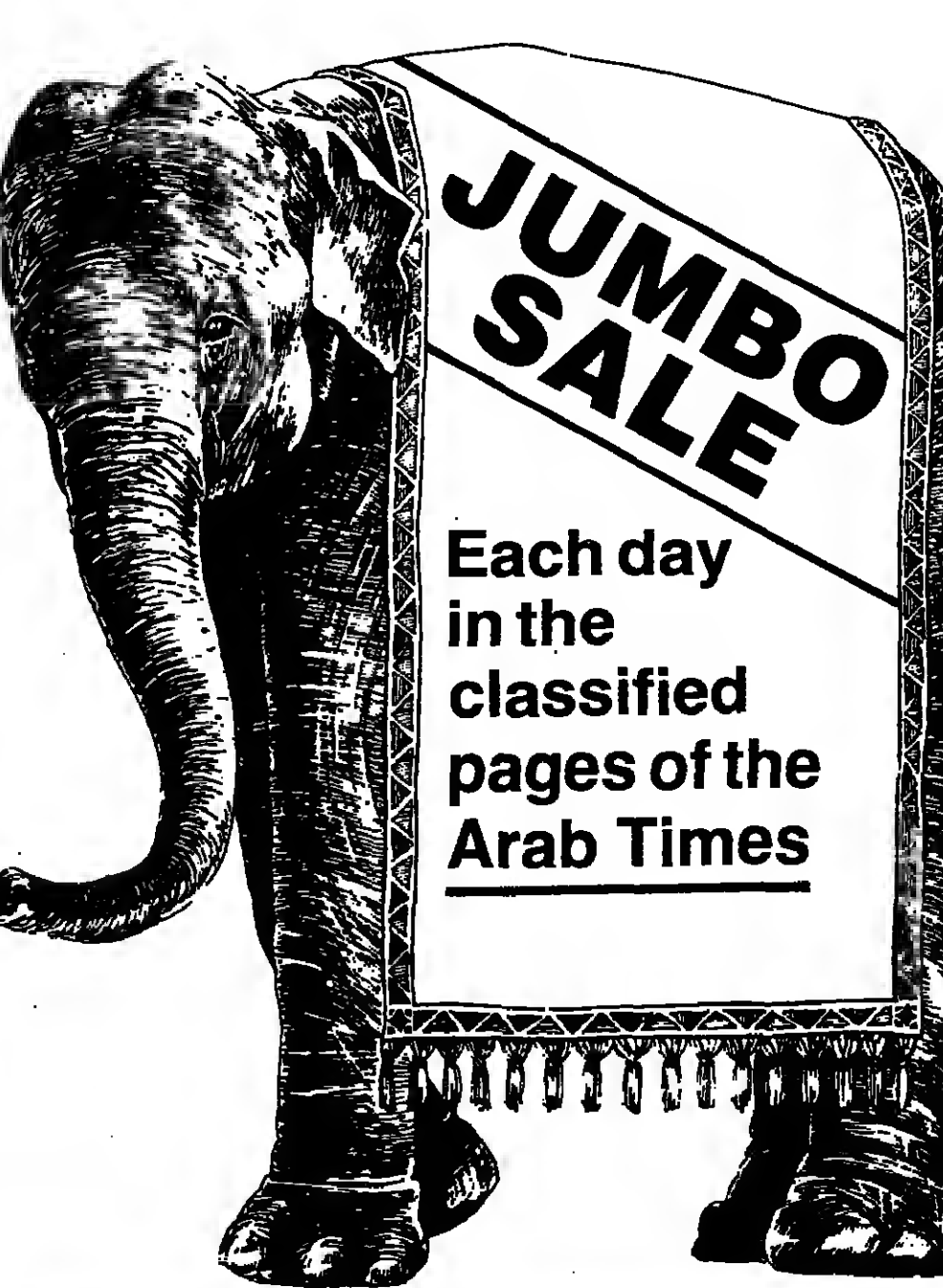
Sender's Name

Address

Telephone

.....

Coupons and payment must be mailed to:
 ARAB TIMES CLASSIFIEDS
 P.O. BOX: 2270
 13023 SAFAT KUWAIT.



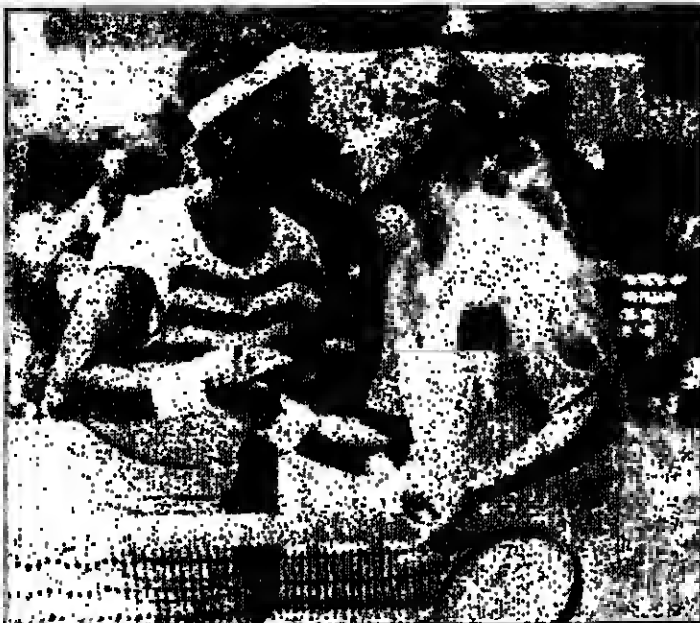
Each day in the classified pages of the Arab Times

ARAB TIMES NEWS IS OUR BUSINESS

Fernandez puts up a fight Graf wins Australian Open



Fernandez puts on an Australian hat as she receives her trophy. (Reuters wirephoto)



Graf (right) is congratulated on her win by Fernandez. (Reuters wirephoto)

MELBOURNE, Australia, Jan. 27. (Reuters): The remarkable Steffi Graf continued her domination of women's tennis by collecting her third successive Australian Open singles title today.

The West German world number one beat American teenager Mary Joe Fernandez 6-3, 4-6, 8-6 in 81 minutes to seal her ninth Grand Slam title in less than three years.

The 20-year-old Graf was given a harder than expected tussle by Fernandez, the tournament's sixth seed, and trailed 4-1 at one point in the second set as the American threatened briefly to upset all the pre-match predictions of a Graf win.

But the defending champion again showed her ability to win important points, wrapping up the last five games of the match to collect the winner's cheque for \$190,000.

Graf, who delighted the 12,000 spectators on centre court by telling them she hoped Melbourne would win the race to host the 1996 Olympics, admitted afterwards that she had not hit top form but was happy with her performance.

"It was not the best but it was good enough," said Graf. "I think I played better than in my last few matches."

"It was the first Grand Slam of the year and I've won it. That's the most important thing to me."

Fernandez, playing in her first Grand Slam final at the age of 18, felt she had not made the most of her opportunities in the second set.

"I had my chances but I didn't get enough first serves in," she said.

In warm, sunny conditions, Graf took the first set in 33 minutes but had to survive some awkward moments, particularly in third game after both players had held their opening service games.

An uncharacteristic double fault from the West German gave Fernandez three break points and although Graf climbed back to deuce, a second double fault gave the challenger a fourth chance. But Fernandez again failed to grasp the opportunity and Graf kept her nose ahead for the rest of the set, breaking the American's serve in the sixth game.

Having sealed the set with two powerful serves, it seemed as though Graf was poised to move into top gear in the second.

Instead it was Fernandez who leapt into a 3-0 lead, her booming forehand taking her opponent by surprise more than once.

Fernandez then survived break point on her serve to go 4-1 up but the suspicion that she needed to inject a touch more aggression into her steady baseline game was confirmed when she served again at 4-2.

After play had been briefly held up as a swallow flew low across the court, Fernandez's hopes took a dive when she netted an easy overhead smash when Graf was resigned to losing the point.

The mistake gave Graf two break points but she needed a third before finally clinching the game. It was to prove the match's decisive moment as Graf produced her most consistent form of the day to advance to 5-4.

Fernandez saved two match points in the final game but then hit a forehand long to give Graf victory.

The American admitted her overhead error had been crucial.

"It was a big point. That would probably have given me the game," admitted Fernandez, whose ranking is expected to rise from 11th to seventh in the world as a result of reaching the final.

Graf has now won 21 successive matches at the Australian Open since 1988, dropping only one set to Helena Sukova in this year's semifinals.

Graf poised to stay on top

GRAF is poised to change the face of women's tennis in the 1990s, even if she plays badly. That is the verdict of Fernandez.

Fernandez, beaten in 81 minutes, believes 20-year-old Graf has already had a profound effect on the game and points to her fellow players as evidence.

"Women's tennis is getting stronger every day because she's making everyone get better," said Fernandez, who played her first match against Graf when she was nine years old.

"I think all the girls hit really hard now, they're physically fitter and stronger and they're playing much more."

"It happened when Chris Evert was on top, then Martina Navratilova. Now everyone's shooting for Steffi."

The problem for all her rivals is that Graf keeps winning when, by her own admission, her form is patchy.

The world number one has been below her best throughout the tournament but still collected her third successive Australian Open title and stretched her current winning sequence in all tournaments to 48 matches.

She recognises her opponents are taking steps to close the gap but refutes the theory that

she needs more competition to stay interested in the game.

"I'm concentrating much more on myself than on the other opponents," said Graf after picking up the winning cheque for \$190,000.

"I think that's what you have to do if you want to stay on top. I know what I have to do. I've just got to do it."

"I don't need to have tougher opponents. I get enough motivation from going out on the court and playing. I don't need anything else."

West Germany's favourite daughter conceded, however, that the next few years could prove significant.

"Seeing which of the young players are going to come up and seeing them develop in the next couple of years is going to be interesting," she said.

For the moment, Graf reigns supreme as the queen of the women's game, even when the likes of Navratilova and Sanchez are present.

Aware that she can play much better, a repeat of her clean sweep of all four Grand Slam titles in 1988 could be on the cards. Her rivals know it and are philosophical.

"She will lose eventually," said Fernandez, one of the main pretenders to the throne. "Hopefully it'll be sooner rather than later."



Graf holds the winner's trophy. (Reuters wirephoto)

Tyson not interested in Foreman

NEW YORK, Jan. 27. (AP): The word out of Tokyo is that the heavyweight champion Mike Tyson has neither the time nor inclination to fight George Foreman — now or ever.

"George Foreman is not my future — oo way, no how, oo time, no place," Tyson said, according to John Solberg, manager of Media Services for Doo King Productions.

"I've got to get by Buster Douglas first, then after that Holyfield. I'm just sick of hearing about Foreman."

Tyson will defend against James "Buster" Douglas on Feb. 11 at Tokyo, then is scheduled to fight Evander Holyfield on June 18 at Atlantic City, New York.

The 41-year-old Foreman, who was champion in 1973-74 and who ended a 10-year retirement in 1987, is calling for a fight against Tyson. So is promoter Bob Arum, King's archival. Foreman knocked out Gerry Cooney in the second round Jan. 15 to boost his comeback record to 20-0, with 19 knockouts.

Nicklaus to play in Senior Skins Game

KOHALA COAST, Hawaii, Jan. 27. (Reuters): Turning 50 is often a trauma, but old golf war horses Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Gary Player and Lee Trevino had a chance to cushion the blow together when for the first time they battled each other in the Senior Skins Game this evening.

The foursome were looking to grab some of the \$450,000 in total purses in the tournament, which was to begin, with nine holes at the Mauna Lani golf course today and finish with nine holes tomorrow.

Each of the 18 holes is assigned an increasing dollar value. "Skins," from \$15,000 to \$35,000.

The golfers acquire Skins only after winning a hole outright, so if the low score on a hole is tied the value of the Skin will be carried to the next hole.

"It's really an exciting format," Nicklaus said yesterday. "This is the sort of tournament where anything can happen, if you win the right holes. I've learned that the best golf doesn't always win, but the best timed golf will."

Nicklaus and Trevino are in their rookie seasons as seniors with Nicklaus making his debut in the over-50 tour. He has said he will probably compete in only four senior events this year.

"Before I can enjoy the Senior Tour I have to get it out of my head that I can compete on the regular tour," Nicklaus said. "I still believe I can beat the young guys though. But senior golf has been wonderful for the game and for a lot of people, and that's why I'll play. I have an obligation to the game."

Nicklaus will not give up the fight against the youngsters, though, as he plans to play in tournaments on the regular tour and the version for the older set. "Jack will find that going onto

the Senior Tour is a shock if you don't think you're ready for it," Palmer said. "But after a couple more years of playing, and seeing 21-year-olds like (American) Robert Gamez win tournaments, the Senior Tour won't look so bad. The fun of our Tour is that we're playing golf, and with the same fire and ferocity that we brought to the regular Tour."



Jack Nicklaus

Soviets aim to kick their way into Olympics

MOSCOW, Jan. 27. (UPI): Kickboxing is a hit in the Soviet Union and Soviet floodings appear to want to boot and punch their way into the Olympics — if the sport is made an official discipline.

The state news agency Tass said yesterday that interest in the sports was rising all over the country and it was now recognized by the Goskom-sport Collegium, the powerful, Soviet state sports co-ordination committee.

Tass said Soviet kickboxing groups were admitted to membership of the World Kickboxing Association at a recent meeting of the organization in Italy which formed a commission for fostering relations with the International Olympic Committee. The Soviets were represented on the commission.

The sport began to develop in the Soviet Union in 1987 with co-operation between kickboxing groups in Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev, Minsk and Riga. But interest arose in other areas too and was co-ordinated into a development programme looking forward to 1992.

Soviet kickboxing teams made their international debut at competitions in Hungary and Poland and the Soviet federation now has relations with national federations in Poland, Hungary and Yugoslavia as well as groups in the United States, West Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands and Italy.

New sports have been mushrooming in the Soviet Union in recent years with the blessing of the authorities.

Golf, baseball and US football have already arrived and earlier this year the authorities said they would allow a non-lethal exhibition of bull-fighting by a Spanish group.

Marsh stays in custody

LONDON, Jan. 27. (AP): Former boxing champion Terry Marsh was ordered to be kept in custody yesterday on charges of trying to murder fight promoter Frank Warren.

Marsh has been held without bail since Jan. 19, and no motion for bail was made during the two-minute session in Barking Magistrates Court.

Judges and lawyers agreed that Marsh would not have to appear in court again until hearing Feb. 23.

Reporting restrictions in the case remained in effect.

S. Africans win men's doubles title

MELBOURNE, Australia, Jan. 27. (AP): South Africans Pieter Aldrich and Danie Visser won the Australian Open men's doubles title today with a 6-4, 4-6, 6-1, 6-4 victory over Canadians Grant Connell and Gleco Michibata.

The first Grand Slam championship by Aldrich-Visser gave them an \$82,000 prize to share. Connell and Michibata split \$41,000.

Aldrich and Visser have played together for two years and have won five titles together, but none as big as this. Ironically, they almost didn't play in the tournament.

"Obviously we feel very good," Aldrich said. "We thought about taking time off and not coming here. But we thought we'd have a chance of doing well, so we came."

The Canadians might not have come away from the match with the winner's trophy, but they made history. They were the first Can-

adian men's team ever to make a Grand Slam final.

"From the minute we beat (Rick) Leach and (Jim) Pugh to the end of today's match, I had a great time," said Connell. "I wish we could have won, it would've been nice. It almost felt like playing Davis Cup, knowing there was live Canadian TV and Canadian fans here."

The Connell-Michibata team also were responsible for knocking out the top seeded American team of Leach and Pugh, the two-time defending champions, in the semifinals.

The South Africans played smart tennis as they kept Connell-Michibata off-balance on their return of serves. Their own penetrating service games kept the Canadians from really getting into the match.

"Unless you play well on your serves they can be dangerous on their returns," Aldrich

said. "That's the key with anyone, but especially with these guys."

Aldrich and Visser think their 5 and 1-2 hour, five set marathon over the American team of Scott Davis and Robert van't Hof helped them to take the title.

"Anyone who can win a match like that gains a lot of confidence," Visser said of the quarterfinal match.

The Canadians played formidable doobles in the second set, but weren't able to take control of the match.

"They took it more to us than we did to them," Connell said. "We were a little careless in the beginning and they took off quickly. We were always fighting to stay in the match."

Visser was especially pleased with victory. "I always liked doubles more than singles," Visser said. "My ambition is to win tournament titles, maybe even Wimbledon."

Lendl seeks to defy history in final

Edberg hopes for another good day



Lendl (left) and Edberg: ready to clash in Sunday's final



against Austria's Thomas Muster but this time he is fully fit and eager to lift his third Australian Open title.

"I am feeling good and I'm

playing good tennis," said Edberg, a winner in 1985 and 1987. "If I play as well as I did against Mats, I must have a good chance. I just have to maintain

the concentration and work hard and hopefully I'll have another good day."

Lendl's mind will also be on his most recent meeting with Edberg

at the Masters in New York last year. The Czechoslovak was swept aside 7-6, 7-5 and, after beating Yannick Noah 6-4, 6-1, 6-2 in yesterday's other semifinal, pretended he could not remember the match.

"Semifinals of the Masters? What happened there," he said, refusing to elaborate.

If Lendl wins, he will equal Jimmy Connors' record for player still active of eight Grand Slam titles. Despite Edberg's form, he is convinced he can add to his tally.

"Every top player thinks that at their best they can beat anyone. Usually against Stefan he serves and volleys and I play the defence and try to find him off. It usually depends on how much impression I can make on his serve."

Lendl's computer-like approach against Edberg's more artistic style should provide a thrilling spectacle even though neither player is renowned for looking too animated on court.

Edberg, who has reached five Grand Slam finals in the past, winning three of them, has a simple message to spectators who want to study his emotions.

"Bring a big pair of binoculars and zoom in very close, then you will see me getting excited," he smiled.

Armour III takes lead

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz., Jan. 27. (Reuters): Tommy Armour III shot four-under-par 67 yesterday to take the lead at the halfway mark of the \$900,000 Phoenix Open golf tournament.

Armour, who posted a 65 to share the opening-round lead, stood at 10-under-par 132 for a one-stroke advantage over Tom Purtzer, who carded a 68.

Mark Calcavecchia, who won this event last year by seven strokes, was tied for third place at seven-under-par 135 with Jodie Mudd, Jay Don Blake, Billy Ray Brown, Clark Burroughs and Dave Barr.

Armour, the grandson of the legendary Tommy Armour, a Hall of Famer known as the Silver Scot, had five birdies and only one bogey. The latter, however, came at the final hole where he bunkered his approach and then was unable to save par.

"It was just a steady round," Armour said. "Very enjoyable." Lance Ten Broeck and Bobby Watkins, who shared the first-day lead with Armour and Purtzer, both struggled. Ten Broeck posted a 73 for a 138, while Watkins soared to a 76 for 141.

Sandy Lyle of Britain, the winner here in 1988, also stood at 138 but he knew it could have been better. He had a first-round 67 and was playing well yesterday until he bogeyed two of the last five holes for an even-par 71. He also missed birdie putts of three feet on the 17th and 18th holes.

"The finish was like getting a stab in the back," Lyle said. A 45-minute delay in the start of play yesterday due to frost resulted in 20 players being unable to finish the round. The players, none of whom were in serious contention, were to complete the second round this morning.

Arabic text: لا بد من

Kuwait sack national soccer team coach

KUWAIT sacked the Brazilian coach of their national football team, preparing for the Gulf Cup Championship next month at their home ground.

Ottavio was released of his job and replaced by another Brazilian, Louis Phillip, the present coach of Qadisiya Club.

The move was announced yesterday by the president of the Kuwait Football Association (KFA) Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed during a brief press conference held at the KFA premises.

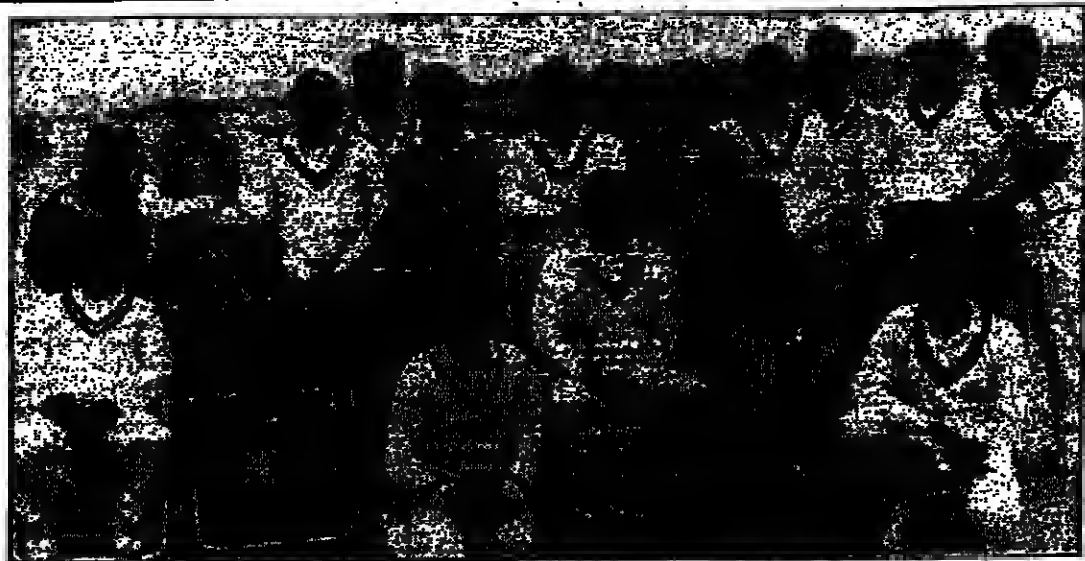
The dismissal came after a dispute over the selection of players between Ottavio and the KFA.

Ottavio surprisingly selected new and inexperienced players and was still trying them out, just three weeks before the start of the 10th Gulf Cup Championship. The dispute developed during the friendly match between Kuwait and East Germany on Friday, when the coach insisted on fielding new and young players and left the experienced ones sitting on the bench.

Sheikh Fahd said that during the interval, the KFA board decided to interfere and asked the coach to make at least two substitutions. "We have never intervened in the coach's affairs and his selection of the team but we told him that what we want is to win the Gulf Cup and not just prepare a new team," Sheikh Fahd said. "He was still experimenting when only three weeks left for the Gulf Cup," he added.

Meanwhile, Qadisiya agreed to release Louis Phillip to the national team for the Cup. Soon after his appointment, Phillip added two players, Salah Hasawi and Saleh Al Meneid, both strikers, to the squad and released four others.

Phillip will accompany the team today to a training camp in Egypt. The team will return from Cairo on Feb 16, four days before the opening of the 10th Gulf Cup Championship.



Kifco win Al Athla Trophy

KIFCO clinched the Al Athla Cricket Trophy by defeating Evergreen by 127 runs in the final, played at KCL ground on Friday.

The match was supposed to be a tough and close tussle between two major cricket teams of Kuwait and a big crowd had gathered to witness the same, but eventually it turned out to be a rather one-sided affair.

Kifco won the toss and opted to bat. They scored 251 runs for the loss of eight wickets in 45 overs. Major contributions came from opener Arshad Shams, who scored a stylish century, followed by 43 from S.P. Khan, 36 from Aqueel Ashraf and 29 from Amin Ahsan.



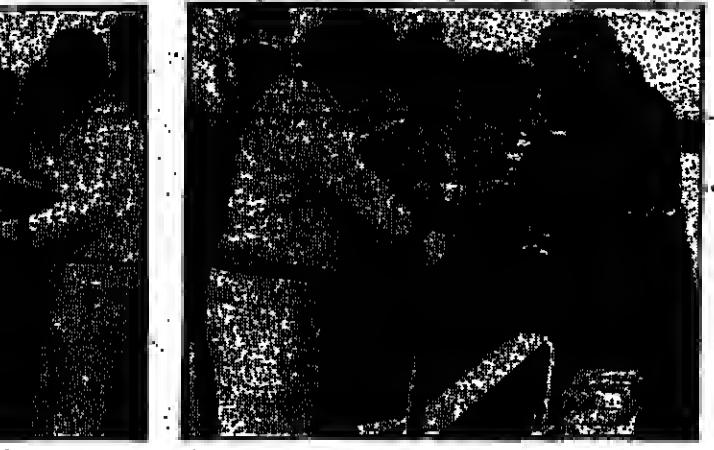
Two solid partnerships of 121 between Arshad and S.P. Khan and 58 between Aqueel and Amin were the foundation of Kifco's total.

Evergreen bowlers, mainly Rifat (4 for 44) and Dawood Baig (4 for 49) did a good job in restricting Kifco to 251, which was not an imposing target in 45 overs.

However, Evergreen batsmen could not face the Kifco attack comfortably and wilted under the speed and spin combination of Rashid Ansari and Amin Ahsan. Evergreen had started quite promisingly and their openers Inam and Zulqarnain had taken the score to 40 when Zulqarnain fell lbw to Shahid Butt for 14.

Thereafter wickets kept on falling regularly and Evergreen were finally all out for 124 runs. Amin Ahsan claimed 4 wickets for 25 runs and Rashid claimed 4 for 38.

Kifco were awarded the trophy by Tarik Al Nakib, managing director of Al Athla Travel Agency. Arshad Shams was declared Man of the Match.



Palestinians invited

KUWAIT, Jan 27. (Kuna): Chairman of Asian Olympic Council Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed has invited the Palestinian sports organisations to participate in the second Winter Games due to take place in Sapporo, Japan, on March 14-19.

The council said in a statement issued here today that Sheikh Fahd had approached the Games' co-ordination high committee to recognise the Palestinians' provisional skiing association.

The council added that it had been confirmed that the Palestinian Olympic Committee would nominate a number of Palestinian athletes for the Games.

The statement added that Sheikh Fahd is also exerting similar efforts regarding the participation of the Palestinian organisations in the 11th Asian Games, which will be held in China next spring.

Pakistan back in Games, minus women

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Jan 27. (AP): Pakistan may have a woman as its head of state but sports are a strictly male affair.

Back in the Commonwealth Games after two decades, Pakistan's 24-strong team is composed entirely of men because, officials say, women simply were not good enough to compete in Auckland.

But strong religious principles were also at stake.

"Women do not expose themselves in public in our country," said Pakistan team commandant Sharzada Aman-i-Room. "We have very strong religious traditions."

Pakistan, a predominantly Muslim nation, was re-admitted to the Commonwealth at last year's meeting of Commonwealth heads of state in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, after a 20-year absence.

Although Pakistani women took part at the nine-nation South Asian Games in Islamabad last October, they wore body-concealing costumes.

Aman-i-Room said such costumes would not have been appropriate in Auckland, so women got left behind.

"One is far freer when running in shorts. Tracksuits become very difficult," he said. "The standard of our women was too low as it is. Tracksuits would have made it even harder."

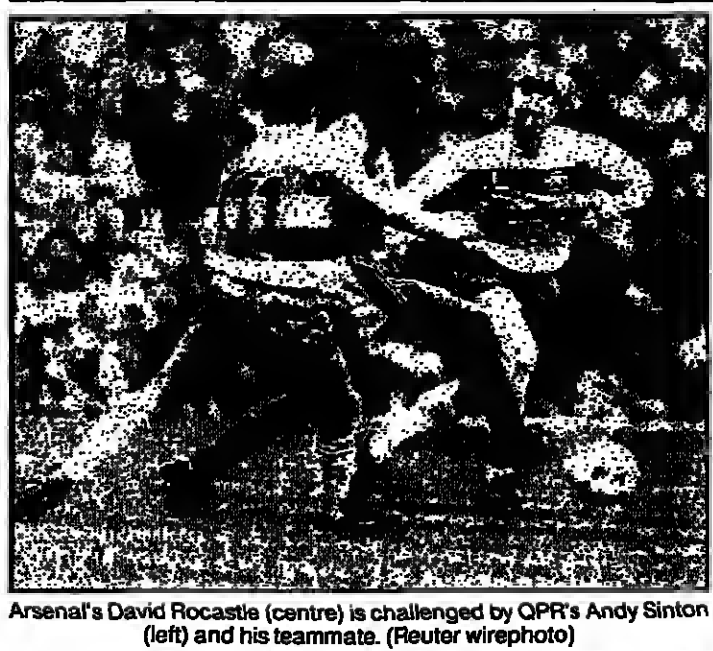
He said the Pakistan government led by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was in favour of a women's team competing in New Zealand but said the standard of competition was just too low.

Bristol stun Chelsea

Villa blast Port Vale

LONDON, Jan 27. (Reuters): Third Division Bristol City joined the ranks of giant-killers when they sent Chelsea, sixth in the First Division, crashing to a 3-1 defeat in the English Football Association (FA) Cup today.

Striker Robbie Turner gave the Third Division leaders, who are managed by former Scotland international Joe Jordan, a dream start to the fourth round tie, scoring in the fourth minute after Chelsea's England goalkeeper Dave Beasant had fumbled the ball in slippery conditions.



He struck again when he broke through unmarked six minutes after the break to increase City's lead, but only after he hit the post with his first effort. Kevin Wilson pulled a goal back six minutes from time but as Chelsea looked like they might scramble a late equaliser, Mark Gavin secured City's triumph with a third goal in the dying minutes.

Aston Villa, who share the lead of the First Division with Liverpool, were the day's biggest scorers, crushing Second Division Port Vale 6-0 at home.

Holders Liverpool, last season's losing finalists Everton and Manchester United go into fourth round action tomorrow.

England's David Platt opened Villa's account in the seventh minute with his 19th goal of the season. Paul Birch and Stuart Gray added two goals each and Ian Olney one as the record seven-times Cup winners ran rampant in the second half.

Stage set for Filcheck tournament

TOKYO, Jan 27. (Reuters): James "Buster" Douglas, facing the daunting task of entering the ring with the mighty Mike Tyson, says he is ready to go the distance with the undefeated world heavyweight champion on February 11.

"I'm prepared to go the distance, go 12 rounds," Douglas told reporters after he arrived in Tokyo today.

"We are both... powerful, so it might be all over as soon as we start, but I'm prepared to fight for 12 rounds."

Douglas spoke calmly about his condition at a Tokyo hotel.

"Everything is going fine. I've had great sparring and great coaches," he said.

He admitted Tyson was strong, but said he was grateful to the Japanese sponsor for inviting him to Tokyo "to win this match."

Asked if he planned to emulate the champion, who is trying to slim a bit, Douglas, 29, said: "I'm very happy on my weight. It's 224 pounds (102 kilos) now."

One of the challenger's three sparring partners is Fred Whitaker, who used to work out with Tyson.



Douglas strikes a fighting pose. (Reuters wirephoto)

Wodars, Kitova beaten

JOHNSON CITY, Tennessee, Jan 27. (Reuters): Unheralded American Gina Procaccio upstaged East German world and Olympic champion Sigrid Wodars and the Soviet Union's Svetlana Kitova in a women's indoor mile event yesterday.

Her comfortable victory in four minutes 28.29 seconds was one of the highlights on the opening day of a two-day meeting which features world-class college and secondary school athletes.

Kitova, ranked two in the world in the mile last year, ran 4:30.85, while Wodars, the Olympic and world 800 metres champion, finished third.

Men's hockey

BENALMADENA, Spain, Jan 27. (Reuters): Results on the second day of a four-nation men's hockey tournament today:

Spain drew with England 1-1 (half-time 1-0).

Netherlands beat France 3-0 (1-0).

Scorers: Netherlands - Stephan Veen (2nd, 42nd), Harry Kwanten (59th).

Standings (tabulate under played, won, draws, lost, goals for and against, points):

| | | | | | | |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Spain | 2 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 3 |
| England | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| Netherlands | 2 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| France | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 0 |

Hundreds demonstrate at England rebels' match

KIMBERLEY, South Africa, Jan 27. (Reuters): Hundreds of singing and chanting black youths, some waving sticks, gathered today outside the cricket ground where an England rebel team was playing its first match.

Scores of police, some with dogs, kept close watch on the demonstrators who were barred from the pitch by a wire fence.

"Go home, go home," the youths chanted.

"Getting supports apartheid," read a placard, referring to rebel captain Mike Gatting.

Groups of white spectators inside the ground watched the demonstrators. One ran at the fence but was turned back by South African cricket chief Ali Bacher.



Play was not affected, although the cricketers could clearly hear the chanting protesters.

Permission for the demonstration was granted yesterday by a magistrate after an application by Bacher, who says he is not against peaceful protest.

His gesture on behalf of the protesters appeared to be aimed at eroding the hostility towards the seven-week tour, which he said he was confident would run its course.

Yesterday Bacher was in the middle of a tense confrontation between heavily armed police and several thousand mostly young blacks who intended marching on the stadium.



It was the largest protest so far against the tour, which anti-apartheid groups vow to halt because it breaks the sporting isolation imposed on South Africa over its apartheid race laws.

Police, wielding shotguns and teargas launchers, prevented the protesters reaching the De Beers Country Club where the England rebels are playing an invitational team.

Official authorisation for today's demonstration was given despite an ugly aftermath to yesterday's incident when hundreds of demonstrators rampaged through the centre of this old diamond mining town, smashing shops and car windows.

Last night the black staff of a Greek restaurant in Kimberley walked out when Gatting and his team came in for a meal.



Taking this move in his stride, Gatting donned an apron and served bemused customers himself.

NBA games

NEW YORK, Jan 27. (Reuters): Results of National Basketball Association games (NBA) played yesterday:

| | | | |
|--------------|-----|-------------|-----|
| Indiana | 115 | Miami | 105 |
| Philadelphia | 120 | Chicago | 109 |
| Detroit | 107 | Phoenix | 103 |
| Golden State | 114 | Seattle | 102 |
| Cleveland | 85 | Minnesota | 84 |
| Dallas | 106 | Sacramento | 93 |
| L.A. Lakers | 100 | Milwaukee | 91 |
| Portland | 109 | San Antonio | 103 |

Sheffield Shield

SYDNEY, Jan 27. (Reuters): Scores on the second day of four-day Sheffield Shield cricket matches today: In Hobart New South Wales 454 for seven declared (Steve Waugh 196, Greg Matthews 117), Tasmania 202 for three (Jamie Cox 93 not out). In Adelaide South Australia 371 for eight declared (David Hookes 118, Andrew Hilditch 100, Terry Alderman four for 83), Western Australia 41 (Joe Souder six for six) and 18 for one.

Mushtaq tourney

THE Mushtaq Memorial Cricket tournament is scheduled to start at the Millat ground from Feb 2. Interested teams should contact Naeem Shah at the Lahore Hotel, Khatina, on Monday, Jan 29, between 8.00 to 8.30 pm.

Drug testing

NEW ORLEANS, Jan 27. (AP): Paul Tagliabue, the new commissioner of the National Football League, said today that a media report charging the NFL with racially-biased drug testing was "a journalistic Molotov cocktail."

NHL games

NEW YORK, Jan 27. (Reuters): Results of National Hockey League (NHL) games played yesterday:

| | | | |
|------------|---|------------|---|
| Chicago | 4 | Buffalo | 2 |
| Toronto | 5 | New Jersey | 1 |
| Washington | 5 | Montreal | 1 |
| Minnesota | 6 | Vancouver | 3 |

Match postponed

AMSTERDAM, Jan 27. (Reuters): A soccer match between Sparta and Ajax Amsterdam tomorrow has been postponed after the worst storm to hit the Netherlands in a decade blew off part of the roof of Sparta's stadium in Rotterdam.

World Cup

SANTA CATERINA VAL-FURVA, Italy, Jan 27. (AP): Sigrid Wolf of Austria captured today's Super-Giant Slalom in the women's World Cup a few hours after a disappointing show in a downhill race on the same track. Michela Figini of Switzerland scored her first win of the season by taking the fastest race of Alpine skiing ahead of West German Miriam Vog.

Hoefener wins

VAL D'ISERE, France, Jan 27. (AP): Other skiers tumbled, but Austrian Helmut Hoefener found the perfect snow course of fresh and artificial snow to his liking and captured a World Cup men's downhill victory today.

ARAB TIMES

Editor-in-Chief: Ahmed Al Jarrah

Editorial Office: Airport Road, Sinaikah, P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat, Kuwait.

Telex: 22392 KT

Telephone: 4913966 (main line)

Advertisement: 4913966

الاربعاء ٢٨ كانون الثاني ١٩٩٠